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THE TIMES

30P

No. 65,542

MONDAY APRIL 1 1996

MATTHEW PARRIS

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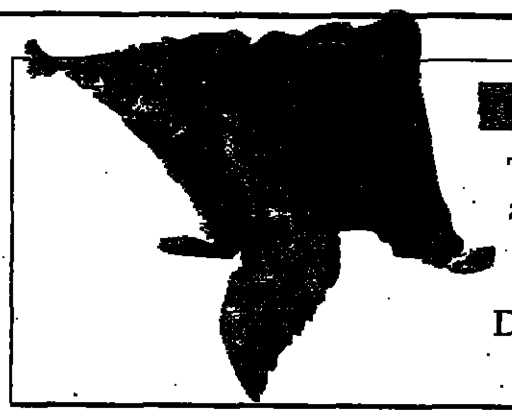

HOW LIFE BEGAN

The moment when animals took off to conquer the air: Part 1 of Richard Dawkins's new book

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Clarke offered referendum deal

Major tries to heal rift as fears grow that Chancellor could quit

By Nicholas Wood
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN MAJOR is preparing for a showdown this week with Kenneth Clarke over plans for a referendum on a single currency.

The meeting will come amid deepening anxiety in senior Tory circles that the Chancellor might resign if his strongly held objections are overruled. Either today or tomorrow, Mr Major will offer Mr Clarke a deal intended to swing him behind the firm view in Downing Street and Conservative Central Office that a referendum pledge is essential.

The Prime Minister will promise his Chancellor that if he accepts a plebiscite, he will ensure that in any national campaign Cabinet ministers do not then argue against a single currency. But Mr Major's efforts to resolve the three-week impasse have been complicated by Michael Heseltine's reluctance to side with the Cabinet majority in favour of a referendum.

The referendum argument, sparked off by Mr Major's Commons announcement on March 7 that the proposal was under serious consideration, has opened up a serious Cabinet rift. Mr Major, Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, and Brian Mawhinney, the party chairman, are pitted against Mr Clarke. Mr Heseltine and John Gummer, the Environment Secretary.

The Prime Minister wants the matter settled at Wednesday's Cabinet meeting in time for an announcement before the Easter recess. But he will not risk another bout of open Cabinet warfare. If he cannot secure private assurances from Mr Clarke and Mr Heseltine that they will support his compromise of a referendum tied to collective Cabinet responsibility, Mr Major is prepared to delay and risk the wrath of pro-referendum ministers.

Mr Rifkind's paper on the wider implications of a referendum will not be circulated to Cabinet ministers until the Prime Minister is confident of an agreement.

Insiders are divided over how seriously to take the threat of a resignation by Mr Clarke. Senior ministers said yesterday that it would be "incredible" for him to quit because he did not want to give the British people the final say over the pound.

Close associates of the Prime Minister also played down the threat, saying that while Mr Clarke was "taking the argument to the edge", Mr Major was determined to avoid provoking a walkout and would play for time.

But one source said that a "Mexican stand-off" had developed between the Chancellor and the Prime Minister. The risk was that Mr Clarke might take his opposition to a referendum to such lengths that he might feel he could only maintain his credibility by resigning.

It is understood that the Chancellor has told the Prime Minister that conceding a referendum would be a surrender to the Eurosceptics. A source said: "He thinks we would be giving into Teresa [Gorman]. But this should not be seen as a game in which we are agreeing with a group of MPs in the House. We are listening to the party at large and the vast majority of the British electorate."

Yesterday, Sir Teddy Taylor, one of the former Whipless Tory Eurorebels, said that Mr Clarke should not be allowed to stand in the way of backing for a referendum.

"Mr Clarke should really be dumped in the Thames for this because it is not fair to carry on Cabinet battles in the press," the Southend East MP said on GMTV's *Sunday Programme*.

"The referendum is the way. And I don't think that Mr Clarke is the kind of person with a big personal following. My feeling is that he will go along with it."

Leading article, page 17

Water giants will have to compete for customers

By Nicholas Wood and Graham Serjeant

FAR-REACHING plans to cut bills and improve services to water consumers will be announced by the Government today. They are designed to smash the monopoly enjoyed by the ten giant regional water companies and end pay, perks and profits excesses that have tarnished the privatisation image.

The plan to inject competition into the industry will initially benefit big industrial users of water. But ministers intend that in a few years domestic customers will be able to buy their water from a range of companies.

They see their proposals as a conclusive answer to the "fat cats" controversies over pay rises for the directors of privatised water companies. By creating a genuinely free market, ministers believe bosses will have to moderate their salaries and share deals.

One senior ministerial source said yesterday that the plan would help to neutralise Labour attacks. "The issue should be privatisation versus nationalisation, not sleaze versus nationalisation."

John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, will announce the shake-up today. The Government intends to bring in legislation later in the year to allow "common carriage" under which competing suppliers would have access to local pipe networks. It is understood that plans for a national water grid, linking all reservoirs and rivers, have been ruled out as too expensive.

But ministers see scope for more modest tie-ups in which pipelines could be constructed between neighbouring reservoirs. The water in customers' taps would come from their local company but the bill would come from the one with the supply contract. Companies would sell water to one another to meet orders.

The shake-up was foreshadowed by John Major in his speech to Tory activists in Harrogate at the weekend. He said that privatisation had cut prices in telephones, electricity and gas — all industries where competing firms use a common national network.

"This has not happened in the water industry — yet. But it will. We're going to introduce competition into the water industry as well," he said.

Since the water industry was privatised in 1989, household bills have soared almost as fast as the pay of the directors of the ten biggest companies. Total profits currently stand at a record £1.6 billion a year.

Last January, Labour disclosed that 25 water company directors became at least £500,000 better off as a result of privatisation — including five new millionaires.

In August Ofwat, the regulator, said that the average family was paying £211 for its water, up from £119 at privatisation. Shareholder payouts had increased at four times the rate of inflation. Taxable profits rose by almost 150 per cent. Northumbrian Water's profits increased 804 per cent.

Until now, competition has had little impact. New suppliers had to put in their own pipelines. Quality varied widely, but much of the £15 billion invested after privatisation has been used to bring all supplies up to minimum standards.

Yeltsin ceasefire

President Yeltsin, concerned about his re-election campaign, announced a ceasefire and partial troop withdrawal from Chechenia .... Page 11

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JULIAN HERBERT

Rough Quest, the first favourite in 14 years to win the Grand National, was the toast of Beare Green, Surrey, yesterday when he was paraded before a delighted crowd outside his stables by his trainer, Terry Cassey (left), and his jockey, Mick Fitzgerald. Race report: page 29

Oxford 'at risk from outdated methods'

By John O'Leary
EDUCATION EDITOR

OXFORD University's ancient structure is threatening its place as a world-beating academic centre, management consultants have said in a report recommending sweeping changes.

Proposals designed to speed up decision-making and give outsiders a voice in the university's affairs have been presented to a Commission of Inquiry, which is due to report before the year's end. The consultants' plan would bring the first major change in Oxford's system of government for 30 years.

The two management consultants from Coopers & Lybrand make a series of stinging criticisms. They say the university's international reputation for research is in jeopardy, there is no stimulus for change in the curriculum and few dons understand the way the university works.

"Many noted how much

Continued on page 2, col 3

Oxford elite, page 7

Railtrack: Let the car take the strain

By Oliver August

EMPLOYEES of Railtrack are to be told today that using the train is putting a strain on its finances and that in future they should travel by road when on business.

A memo to all 11,000 employees states that rail travel may not be the cheapest option, especially when going to remote areas. When travelling in groups a hire car or taxi is often more economical.

A Railtrack spokesman explained that since privatisation, the track operator has to pay train operators for its employees' fares. "It wouldn't be fair if the east coast operator had to subsidise the trip of a Railtrack employee from London to Newcastle. We are saying to the staff: use the cheapest possible means of transport," he said.

"Train journeys are no longer free for us, so we want the staff to think about it before they start. Some journeys are just too time-consuming by train and often it is cheaper for a group of employees travelling together to hire a car."

Employees of Railtrack will only be able to travel free by rail during emergencies or to get to the scene of an accident.

Staff joining Railtrack from today will no longer receive perks such as free travel to work and privileged tickets. For decades, British Rail staff enjoyed free passes as well as quarter-price tickets for their families. Executives, however, will retain some benefits such as first-class passes for business and private journeys.

Rail unions and politicians attacked the end of free travel for railway staff. The Rail Maritime and Transport union said it will seek urgent talks with Railtrack, which owns and operates tracks, signals and stations.

Jimmy Knapp, the RMT general secretary, said: "This is yet another example of the bizarre world of privatisation. Railtrack is at the heart of the railway industry, yet, they are telling their staff not to use the railways." Brian Wilson, Labour's transport spokesman, said it was a "breach of assurances given during passage of the Railways Act through Parliament".

New QCs invited to be plastic personalities

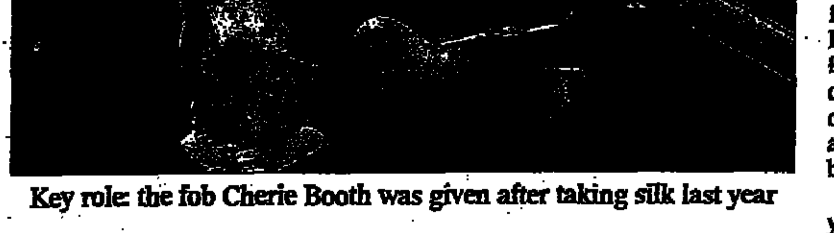
By Frances Gibb
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

BARRISTERS say it is the pinnacle of their career. The day they become a Queen's Counsel is a traditional rite of passage that brings status and wealth. Now, the moment can be preserved for posterity — in plastic.

New QCs, rigged out in full-bottomed wigs, silk gown and breeches, ruffles and jabot, can have the day they "take silk" encapsulated as a keyring, a fridge magnet or even a desk pen set. The more adventurous could have their images reproduced in a pair of book-ends; a heart-shaped box or paperweight.

The new range of photographic memorabilia is the brainchild of Cameo Photography, a firm in Whetstone, north London, which takes all the pictures of the silks ceremony at the House of Lords every Maundy Thursday. This Thursday another 80 or so barristers will join the top ranks and find themselves in plastic key fobs. Irene Niven, a director of the firm, said: "We got the idea from America. Last year we gave all the new QCs key fobs free. And we offer them a range of other products which they can then order throughout the year — heart-shaped boxes, for instance, on Valentine's Day."

One QC had ordered ten key fobs at Christmas, she said. The "sculptures" were also popular, depicting the QC in stand-out form, with the assembled ranks of the other novitiates behind.



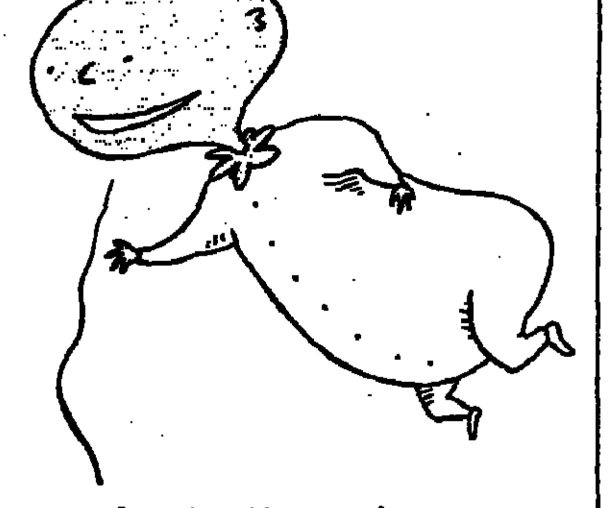
Key role: the fob Cherie Booth was given after taking silk last year

A pair of book-ends costs £65; a letter rack £30; a pen set (two pens) £40.50; and a note-holder £23. Keyrings and fridge magnets cost £10.50 each. The idea has yet to take off in a profession renowned for its conservatism and QCs seem remarkably coy about taking the chance to buy the products.

Cherie Booth, QC, who took silk last year, said: "It was very kind of them to send me the key fob — it's on the spare ignition key. The children have a bit of a laugh about it. But, no, I think I prefer the traditional photographs."

Ms Booth, who is married to Tony Blair, the Labour leader, said she would not be buying the products.

The WORLD of OLIVER & CLAIRE



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THIS WEEK IN THE TIMES

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PLAY TO WIN

See how your Interactive *Team Football players* are performing
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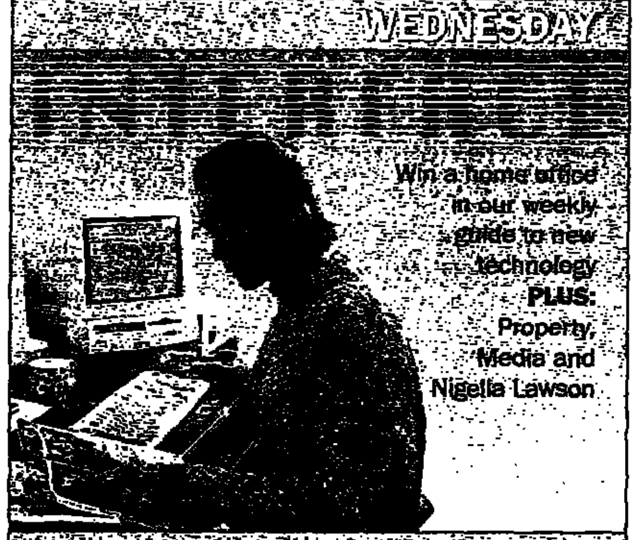
Libby Purves, and
Dr Thomas Stuttaford's
Medical Briefing

WEDNESDAY


Win a home office in our weekly guide to new technology
PLUS:
Property, Media and Nigella Lawson

THURSDAY

FILM OF THE WEEK

Kevin Spacey in the Hollywood comedy *Swimming With Sharks*
PLUS: Health, Books *and Travel* News

FRIDAY

POP
Retro Sixties: the new album from Ocean Colour Scene
PLUS: The Valerie Grove Interview

SATURDAY

L.A. PAWS

A cat's life in California, in the **Magazine**
PLUS: Weekend, Car 96, 1015 for young *Times* readers and **Vision**, the 7-day TV and radio guide

Blair welcomes chance of TV duel with Major

By Nicholas Wood
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR welcomed indications yesterday that the next election could be the setting for the first televised head-to-head debate between a prime *minister and a leader of the opposition.* Conservative Central Office is considering an American-style contest before the cameras.

It is understood that Tory officials are thinking of conceding the idea if Labour is well ahead in the polls at the beginning of an election campaign. They admitted it would be seen as a "desperation" tactic and emphasised no decisions had been *taken. It appears that informal talks* have been held with broadcasters.

Convention has it that prime ministers do not give challengers *equal status by appearing on the* same platform. Neil Kinnock's ap*peals for televised debates with* Margaret Thatcher in 1987 and John Major in 1992 were rejected for this reason.

Hugh Colver, former director of communications at Central Office, said on GMTV yesterday that, if the Tories were trailing badly in the polls, they would have nothing to lose by agreeing a contest. His hunch was that Mr Major would surprise people *by winning the debate. Brian* Mawhinney, the Tory party chair*man, played down the possibility,* while not ruling it out. He told *On the Record on BBC television:* "Whether we have a debate between Mr Major and Mr Blair is something which we may turn our minds to."

*Michael Portillo was more dismis*sive. Speaking on LWT's *Jonathan Dimbleby* programme, he said: "I'm not sure it brings out the best in politics. I think it brings out the best in one-liners, the catchphrases, and I'm not sure that is the best way to conduct an election campaign."

Mr Blair said he would "delighted" *to take on Mr Major before millions* of viewers and challenged the Prime *Minister to bring forward the mo*ment by calling an early election. "I *am taking this more or less as a firm* offer, in which case it is accepted with alacrity," *he told Breakfast with Frost* on the BBC.

"If they want to have a debate there is a very simple way of having it, which is to bring forward *the date of* the election. I don't believe there is any purpose or reason in governing left for this Government."

Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, backed the idea but Tory strategists were wary of allowing what they regard as an unfair "two against one" contest.

Mr Ashdown said: "Liberal Democrats have called consistently for this. It is a marvellous way for voters to get involved in the big questions on the British agenda. What is important now is to get the whole issue out of the hands of politicians pushing for relative advantage, and into the *hands of broadcasting authorities, or* some other respected independent body, *to draw up the ground* rules and issue the invitations."

Peter Riddell, page 16

Brussels will meet 50% of beef crisis action costs

By Michael Hornsby, agriculture correspondent

BRITAIN can expect the European Union to meet at least half the bill for any action agreed to restore consumer confidence in beef and calm public panic over "mad cow" *disease, a European Commissioner said yesterday.*

The promise came as Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, prepared for *emergency* talks with his EU colleagues in Luxembourg today on proposals ranging from a selective slaughter of the British cattle herd to tightened controls on animal feed.

Mr Hogg's political future is in the balance. He is understood to have told the Prime Minister he is prepared to resign over his handling of the beef crisis, which has led to a worldwide ban on British beef exports worth more than *£600 million* a year.

There was support for Mr Hogg yesterday, however, from Michael Portillo, the *Defence Secretary, who said:* "I do not see why Douglas Hogg should take blame upon himself and I do not see why anybody should seek to put it upon him."

Sir Leon Brittan, Vice-President of the European Commission, said other EU countries were genuinely sympathetic to the plight of Britain's beleaguered beef industry and ready to help to pay for any agreed measures.

Speaking on *Breakfast with Frost* on the BBC, Sir Leon said: "It depends on the scheme that is put forward but different schemes get different co-operation which ranges from 100 per cent to 70 per cent to 50 per cent. So we are talking about real, serious contributions.

"No decision has been taken, either by Britain or by Britain with the Community, *as to exactly what has to be done. Everybody has accepted that what one is now talking* about is not just measures that are *scientifically necessary but* measures to restore public confidence."

Neil Kinnock, Britain's junior European Commissioner, confirmed reports that any money put up by Brussels would be clawed back in part from the annual rebate negotiated by the Government on its payments to the EU budget.

"The UK is a contributor to the Common Agricultural Fund and to that extent, in getting support in dealing with all the difficulties that have arisen in this crisis, the *money paid in by Britain will* be part of the fund paying out *to Britain," he told Crosstalk* on LWT.

Today's talks in Luxembourg are expected to focus on *a proposal for incinerating up* to 15,000 older cows which are slaughtered every week instead of allowing them to be used for food. This could cost at least £500 million a year.

Most of these animals are dairy and suckler cows at the end of their working lives. They are turned into products such as meat pies. They are old enough to have been born when farmers were still using the contaminated cattle feed thought to have caused BSE.

Matthew Parris, page 16

WAYNE STARR

Douglas Hogg, who was defended by Michael Portillo over the BSE crisis yesterday

Move on farming 'red tape'

THE Government is reviewing food hygiene regulations with its European Union partners as part of a drive to reduce the burden of "red tape" on business and farmers (Michael Hornsby writes).

Questioned about reports that the Government planned to scrap some regulations, Michael Heseltine said no changes would be contemplated that would prejudice public health. Interviewed on Radio 4's *The World This Weekend*, the Deputy Prime Minister said: "We will always look at the regulatory proposals against the absolute standards of safety, health, national interest. If there is any question of risks, however small, we will not do it."

The Ministry of Agriculture said: "There is an on-going programme of looking at all regulations to reduce unnecessary red tape but there would certainly be no question of scrapping anything that is needed to safeguard public health."

A consultation document is to be issued later this month by the European Commission's agricultural directorate proposing ways of making EU food hygiene regulations less complex.

The document will be based in part on submissions by member states.

Boy dies on night adventure

The body of a 12-year-old boy *was found in a burnt-out* garage yesterday. He had been sleeping rough with friends as an outdoor adventure. Thomas Flynn is believed to have died from smoke inhalation aft[illegible] started in the garage whe[illegible] the boys were using candles.

Thomas and two friends, also 12, had told their parents they were staying at each others' homes in Waltham Abbey, Essex, but they camped out near their homes with *mattresses and blankets.*

GPs reform

Fundholding family doctors will cover more than half the population for the first time from today. The number of practices that manage their own budgets and buy health care from hospitals is increasing from 2,400 to about 3,600, covering 53 per cent of the population, up from 41 per cent a year ago.

400,000 jobs lost

Britain's 100 biggest companies have shed almost 400,000 jobs over a five-year period, with 280,000 going in 1994 and 1995 alone, according to a survey. The cuts are blamed mainly on a combination of relentless competition, technology and global restructuring. BT leads the list with 88,500 jobs lost.

Wordy winners

The Edinburgh Regional Final of *The Times* Aberlour Crossword Championship was won yesterday by John Henderson, 32, a lecturer in psychology at the City of Westminster College. He completed the four puzzles in an average of 7¼ minutes. The doubles title went to Patricia McBryde of Edinburgh and Dr Edward Luscombe. Letters, page 17

Oxford 'outdated'

Continued from page 1

easier it was to stop a decision *than to make a positive one," it* says.

"A *system that requires* a disproportionate amount of time to understand and can then be manipulated by the few who have the time to make the effort can hardly be described as democratic — and it certainly does not serve to produce much sense of accountability."

Quentin Thompson and Clare Matterson, whose report has been circulated among senior academics, paint a picture of outmoded and inefficient procedures holding back development in teaching and research.

They recommend a streamlined system with stronger central administration and *more power for subject specialists at the expense of the* colleges. Although most dons *have yet to see the report — the* university has gone down for Easter — *its recommendations* are already encountering re*sistance. Heads of college said* measures intended to protect research could have a damaging effect on their ability to deliver world-class teaching. Others questioned the need for bureaucratic change.

The consultants' findings may presage a battle later in the year, when the Commission, chaired by Dr Peter North, Oxford's Vice-Chancellor, produces its final report.

Coopers & Lybrand was brought in more than a year ago. It interviewed more than 200 university members and a number of *outsiders.*

Oxford elite, page 7

Jesus was a Mason, new book claims

By Ruth Gledhill
religion correspondent

JESUS was a Freemason and grandmaster of an ultra-conservative Jewish sect, a book published this week claims.

Using the Bible, the Dead Sea Scrolls and other texts, the authors of *The Hiram Key* claim the Passion narratives of the *New Testament* date from resurrection rituals of ancient Egypt and are enshrined in initiation ceremonies of Freemasonry. Christopher Knight and Robert Lomas, both Masons, argue that Jesus and his brother James used masonic-style rit*uals to establish the* "kingdom of heaven" on earth, and *that Jesus's resurrection had* no element of the supernatural *but ritually denoted* rebirth into a brotherhood.

They also say that Freemasonry, normally held to have begun in the Middle Ages, originated with the building of King Solomon's Temple 3,000 years ago. They suggest that Jesus's problems might have involved the betrayal of a masonic-style secret and that he was a leading figure in the Essene community at Qumran, which, they say, was set up along masonic lines.

The Roman Catholic Church, which proscribes Freemasonry, dismissed the claims. Mgr Kieran Conry *said: "This sounds like an* attempt to give credibility to *Freemasons."*

Scholar casts doubt on Christ's casket

A LEADING biblical scholar *has dismissed the discovery* in Jerusalem of burial caskets bearing the names Jesus, Mary and Joseph as no more than "an interesting coincidence" (Ruth Gledhill writes). Others believe more research is needed to establish whether the empty relics, found in a tomb, could be those of the Holy Family.

Dr Tom Wright, the Dean of Lichfield, said it was "laughable" that anyone could have tended the body of Jesus without it becoming public knowledge. "I can see no other explanation than that the body was resurrected."

The caskets bearing the names were discovered in an *Israeli museum warehouse* owned by the Israel Antiquities Authority by the makers of the BBC's *Heart of the Matter*. The caskets bear the names Jesus, son of Joseph; *Mary;* Joseph; Yehuda son of Jesus; and Matthew. There is also another Mary, possibly that of Mary Magdalene. They contained no bones because of vandalism.

Dr Wright said: "These were very common names at the time and it would be like someone in 2,000 years' time claiming to have found the tomb of the Royal Family because it contained the names Charles, son of *Philip*; Andrew and Diana."

The programme, called *The Body in Question*, will be *screened on Easter Day.*

"Often people get palpitations, euphoria, increased hormone secretions. It's a very strong substance, chocolate."

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Mother opposed Carol's book

Thatcher marriage 'a partnership of two selfish people'

By Andrew Pierce

A BOOK by Carol Thatcher that portrays her mother as distant and terrifying and describes her parents' relationship as a partnership between two selfish people was privately opposed by Baroness Thatcher.

The biography of Sir Denis Thatcher, *Below the Parapet*, is an intimate portrait of life in one of the world's most famous families and caused occasional heated rows in the Thatcher household. Sir Denis, 80, gave a series of interviews to his daughter, a journalist and broadcaster, and they worked on the book together in Klosters, Switzerland, where she lives for much of the year.

But as the project proceeded Lady Thatcher became increasingly opposed because the book discloses far more personal details about her attitude to family life than her own books. Lady Thatcher has not requested a copy of the transcript and will not attend the launch in London this month. She will be on an overseas speaking tour. Miss Thatcher, 42, speaking from Klosters, said: "I don't know if she will read it. I did not interview her. She has just written two books. It would have been nice if she could have been at the launch. While launches can take into account many things they cannot take into account your mother's speaking engagements."

She denied that her mother was frosty. "She rang me up on one occasion and told me she was supportive."

Her description of her parents' relationship as a partnership between two selfish people who did not want marriage to change their lives has surprised many friends. Miss Thatcher said: "Their priorities were not to each other or to us."

When she suggested booking a restaurant table for her parents to celebrate her mother's 70th birthday, Lady Thatcher responded: "Good heavens. What on earth would we find to talk about?"

Miss Thatcher disclosed that her father suffered a breakdown. "The only time the stress became intolerable was just before he decided whether to sell the business [Castrol]. It was in the 1960's. It was caused by overwork. It was all camouflaged; Mum was already in Parliament. It was a ghastly year."

The book describes Lady Thatcher as a distant and terrifying mother who was never warm or affectionate in public. Miss Thatcher said she grew up feeling an irrelevance. "Mum did everything at a spring. She wanted to be all consumed by the job and, by God, she was. As a child I was frightened of her."

The inferiority complex was made worse by the way her mother treated Mark. "I always felt I came second out of the two. Unloved is not the right word, but I never felt I made the grade."

But Miss Thatcher makes clear her admiration for her mother. "I don't expect ever to meet an individual with a greater power of self-discipline and the ability to implement it minute by minute."

She talked to most of her parents' friends and to her father's first wife but her mother was conspicuous by her absence from the interviewing process.

A friend of Miss Thatcher said: "When it became obvious early last year that subjects were being covered which were not referred to in her own books, her mother became actively opposed. She made her views clear."

Lord McAlpine of West Green, a friend of Lady Thatcher for 20 years, said: "Margaret Thatcher is immensely private. There are whole aspects of her life which she did not publish in her books. I have never heard her talk about these things in private. But I am sure many daughters say the same things about their mother."

Margaret Thatcher with Carol and Mark in 1959

HE UNIVERSITY
LI
CLASS
DATE

Lauren Edwards, 12, from Essex, enjoys a visit from Dylan the labrador

Pets ease the pain for sick children

By Russell Jenkins

AN EXPERIMENT in the use of pets to ease the suffering of chronically sick children is paying remarkable medical and therapeutic dividends. Animal therapy at The Hospital for Sick Children in Great Ormond Street, London, which was launched as a trial five years ago, is being incorporated into the whole treatment.

Sick youngsters, many terminally ill or clinically depressed from the trauma of chemotherapy, find comfort in playing with a pet.

The experiment is run by a charity, the Children in Hospital and Animal Therapy Association, under the hospital's consultant psychiatrists.

One young girl injured in Bosnia, who survived for 20 months in the intensive care unit, could breathe only with the aid of a respirator. The animal therapist introduced her to small mammals.

Sandra Stone, a former nurse and the association's president, said: "In particular she loved the rabbits. Towards the end, when life for her was becoming hard, she became selective of people but the rabbits continued to give her comfort and her favourite was with her up to two days before she died."

A young boy who had undergone extensive surgery was too frightened to move until he took the lead of a dog. A teenage girl suffering from an eating disorder believes it was only the comfort of her friendship with animals that allowed her to regain control of her life.

Doctors depress mental patients

By Dominic Kennedy

MENTALLY ill patients are happier the less they have to do with psychiatrists, social workers and day centres, a survey published today has shown.

Mentally ill people who stay away from day centres are classed by professionals as "hard to engage" and it was assumed they were isolated and lonely. Instead, the study shows that these people had as many contacts in the community as other mental patients.

The majority of the 76 mentally ill people interviewed by Diana Rose, a social researcher at the Sainsbury Centre for Mental Health, and her researchers said the public was afraid and unsympathetic towards them. None said the police were positive towards their problems, whereas two-thirds said the Church was.

Pit takes its coal struggle to big screen

By Alexandra Williams
and Stephen Farrell

A GROUP of South Wales miners who saved their pit from closure by buying it have signed a deal to turn their struggle into a film.

The workforce of Tower Colliery in Hirwaun, Mid Glamorgan, signed a contract with the independent film production company First City Features four weeks ago. David Kelly, the producer, has raised finance for the script and is now trying to attract major backers. The author Alan Plater has already expressed interest.

The 251-strong Tower workforce, which made £4.1 million gross profits from its first year, insisted it had a success story to tell. "This is an exclusive deal. They are early stages but we are going ahead," Martin Bruce Clayton, from First City Features, said. "We are confident we can make it attractive to financiers."

Phil White, 42, former chairman of the colliery's NUM lodge and now company secretary, said: "David Kelly is positive it's a winner, maybe in America as well because they like the little man against the system."

The colliery will take a percentage of any profits and also plans to set up an educational fund for the area.

Lottery is ticket to chart success

By Alexandra Frean, Media Correspondent

RECORD companies are fighting to get their biggest pop and classical acts on BBC1's *National Lottery Live*, after proving that the prize draw also brings instant fortune for their stars.

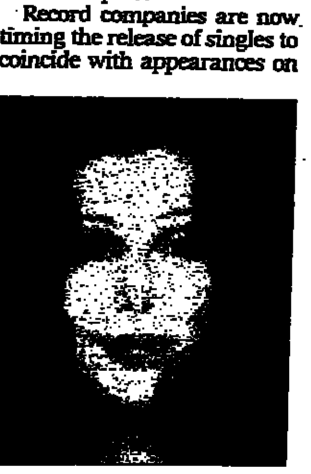
The 15-minute programme, which attracts a broad range of viewers on Saturday nights, has a become one of the most powerful showcases for singles and albums, according to Richard Ogden, senior vice-president with Sony Music Europe. He said: "Our artists benefit greatly from being on it. Michael Bolton was on the show with a single from his *Greatest Hits* album. It moved the album up the charts by about 20 places and into the top 20."

Record companies are now timing the release of singles to coincide with appearances on the show, according to the music industry magazine *Music Monitor*. WEA Records scheduled *Cecilia*, by the former Madness singer Suggs, for release today. He is due to appear next weekend.

Although the show's average audience is around 13 million, it peaks at 17-18 million at the time of the draw, just after the live music acts appear. Mark Wells, its producer since October, began the policy of booking big-name acts. He said: "The record companies are now falling over each other to get their acts on the show."

The singer Cher released a single *One by One* on January 8, two days after her appearance in a double rollover week. The record went straight into the singles chart at No 7. The album from which it was drawn, *It's A Man's World*, also saw an increase in sales and re-entered the top 40. Meat Loaf's single *Not a Dry Eye in the House* jumped from No 23 to No 7 in the week after his live appearance on January 20.

The effect is not limited to rock and pop artists. The soprano Lesley Garrett, who appeared on January 27, saw an immediate rise in sales for her album, *Soprano in Red*. The tenor José Carreras is booked to appear on the programme on April 20.



Cher: song hit charts after rollover draw

Winning numbers, page 20

Storm hits shipping forecast

By Robin Young

SOME interruption is forecast for the well-loved litany of weather reports from coastal stations broadcast four times a day on Radio 4. Mariners in the Dover and Bridlington areas are to be deprived of their data because of a coastguard dispute.

Since 1949 the reports have made the rounds of the British Isles from Tiree and Butt of Lewis to Ronaldsway and Malin Head, giving concise summaries of latest readings of wind direction and speed, visibility, pressure, and general weather conditions.

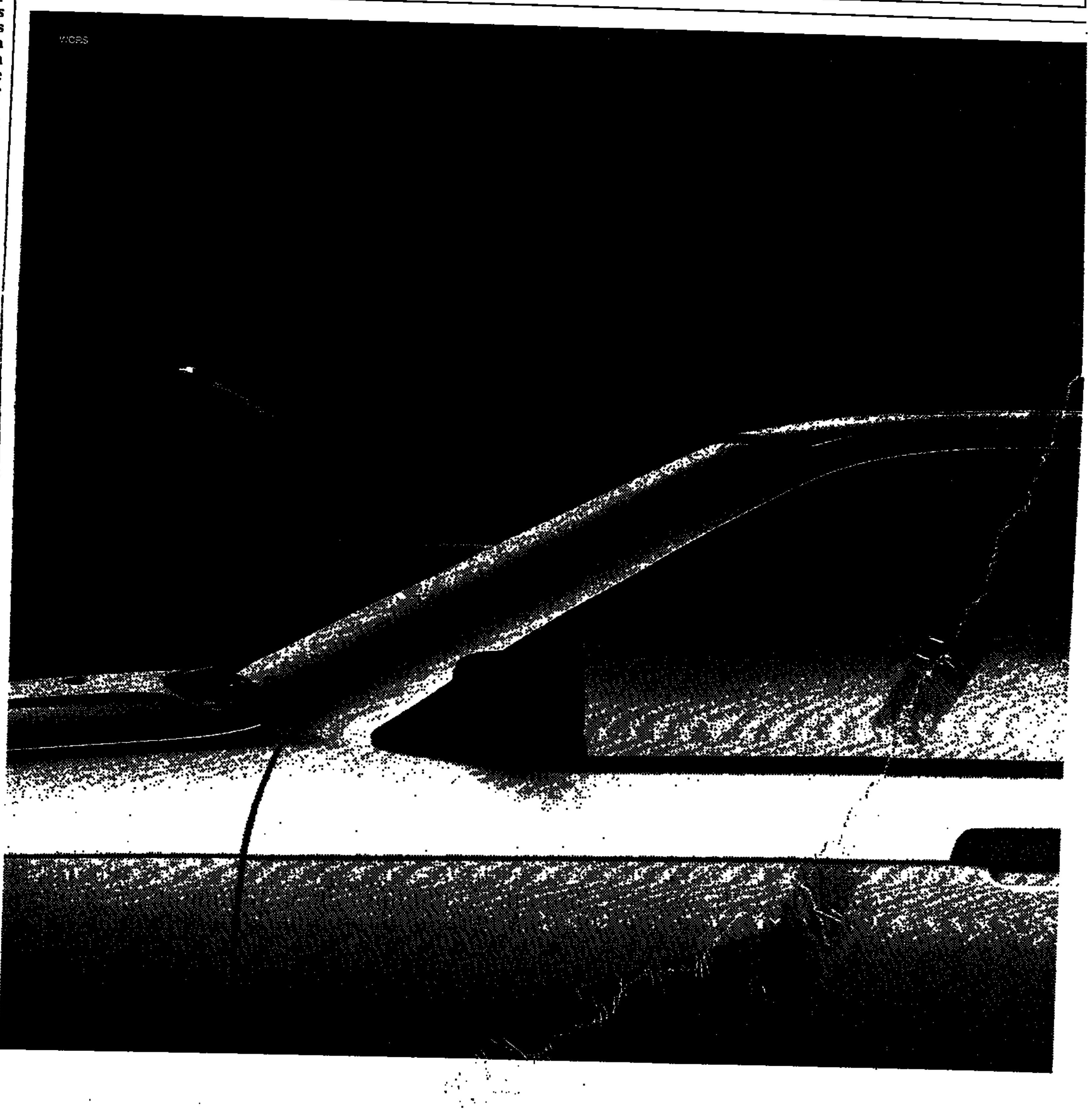
Now a dispute between coastguards and the Coastguard Agency over the payments officers have been receiving for relaying information to the Meteorological Office is leaving the BBC without reports for the two areas.

A decision by 150 coastguards at 15 stations around Britain to stop supplying information from midnight last night is also depriving the Meteorological Office of thousands of readings. The inshore waters report on Radio 3 will also be affected.

The coastguards had been paid between £200 and £800 a year for their reports and claim they did the work in their own time without interfering with their official duties. But they have been told by the Coastguard Agency that they must provide the information as part of their job, without extra payment. The agency intends to collect the money itself to offset the amounts it pays the Meteorological Office for inshore weather reports.

Linda Scott, of the agency, said: "It is obviously anomalous that our staff should be being paid by another government agency. They are our employees."

Forecast, page 20



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···INFORMATION BULLETIN···

THE REFERENDUM PARTY

A single currency is only one of the many fundamental problems of the European Union. Here is another. European Law already overrules British Law.

Each year, the European Commission and the Council issue thousands of pages of "regulations and directives", which we in Britain would call laws.

According to the Treaty,[1] European law (ie "regulations and directives") "shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States".[2]

The European Court of Justice stated: "Every national court must apply Community law in its entirety and must accordingly set aside any provision of national law which may conflict with it, whether prior or subsequent to the Community rule".[3]

It is now generally accepted by British judges that "the Treaty is the supreme law of this country taking precedence over Acts of Parliament".[4] The courts of the United Kingdom have therefore accepted that their duty is to ensure the full and effective rule of Community law, even if it contradicts the unequivocal provisions of Acts of Parliament. Thus, Parliament has surrendered its sovereignty and the Treaty of Rome, as amended by the Single European Act and Maastricht, in effect, has become a written and supreme constitution.

The former Master of the Rolls, Lord Denning, stated, "No longer is European Law an incoming tide flowing up the estuaries of England. It is now like a tidal wave bringing down our sea walls and flowing inland over our fields and houses to the dismay of all".[5]

So it is that Parliament has given up its right to pass laws on an ever increasing range of issues.[6] That is why the referendum is necessary and one of the reasons why a referendum restricted to the issue of a single currency is insufficient.

If the people of Britain want the nation's laws to be enacted in Brussels, then they should be able to say so. The consequence would be that the electoral promises of the political parties would need to be limited to those issues over which they would retain some authority.

If, on the other hand, the British people want to bring power back home, they should also be allowed to say so. Should a majority agree, and the government acts accordingly, then laws enacted in Westminster could once again be supreme and general elections would no longer be the masquerade with which we are now faced.

If you wish to become a supporter of The Referendum Party please write to:

5 Galena Road, Hammersmith, London W6 0LT. Tel: 0181-563 1155. Fax: 0181-563 1156.

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1. The Treaty of Rome as amended by the Single European Act and the Treaty of Maastricht. 2. The Treaty of Rome, Article 189(2). 3. Case 106/77 Amministrazione delle Finanze dello Stato v. Simmenthal (1978) ECR 629 at 643, 644. 4. Hoffman J. in Stoke-on-Trent City Council v. B&Q plc (1990) 3 CMLR 31 at 34. 5. Introduction to Gavin Smith, The ECJ: Judges or Policy Makers? 6. The original Treaty of Rome principally covered matters relating to the establishment of a common market. Maastricht radically expanded the areas of Europe's legal competence and went well beyond purely economic matters. The purpose, unequivocally, had become the creation of a European super-state.

هكذا من الاصل

Health director to study big rise in Benbecula cancer

By Helen Johnstone

THE Government offered expert help yesterday to analyse a spate of cancer cases on Benbecula in the Western Isles to see if they could be linked to fallout from the Chernobyl nuclear power station explosion ten years ago.

Evidence from two doctors on the island shows that the incidence of some forms of cancer increased three-fold in a year. Dr Francis Tierney and Dr Andrew Senior, who practise at Griminish, noticed the increase early last year. Nineteen new cancers had been reported since 1994 when only six would have been have expected. There was a particular increase in cancers of the digestive tract, mainly among crofters.

Dr Tierney said: "There is a sharp increase in the incidence of cancer compared with other parts of the country that must be due to environmental factors. We need the help of scientists to find out why we have this increase and whether it is a true increase compared to other parts of the country that were not so exposed to fallout from Chernobyl."

The radioactive cloud emitted from Chernobyl passed over the Western Isles in May 1986, at a time of heavy rainfall.

Calum MacDonald, Labour MP for the Western Isles, asked the Scottish Office to order an inquiry into the findings. He said: "It is important to establish whether this cluster is significant or merely a blip — and if so, why. These figures will cause immense concern in the local community. It is necessary for the islands' health board and the local health council to get every help to get to the bottom of the situation. Personally, I find these figures deeply disturbing."

Dr Robert Kendell, the Chief Medical Officer of Scotland, said it was "exceedingly unlikely" that Chernobyl was responsible. He said the radioactive plume spread over millions of square miles and could never have selectively contaminated so small an area so far away. Fallout did not cause cancers of the digestive tract in isolation; it mainly caused thyroid cancers and leukaemias.

Cancers related to Chernobyl would be spread over many years, as happened with thyroid cancers in Ukraine, he added: "The first issue to be established is whether there is indeed any cancer cluster, and this requires detailed statistical analysis. This is a matter in the first instance for the Western Isles Health Board and its director of public health. If the board wishes expert assistance on assessing whether there is indeed anything unusual to be explained, that can easily be provided."

Western Isles Health Board officials are to check the records of every GP and medical establishment on Benbecula to confirm the numbers and to see if any pattern can be established.

Other causes have been suggested, including fallout from rockets fired by an Army range at Benbecula into the Atlantic, and the effect of a powerful air defence radar on a hill on the island. An Army spokeswoman said: "The rockets which have been used at Benbecula are certainly not uranium tipped or anything like that."

Another theory is that the rise is due solely to improved cancer detection methods.

The World Health Organisation said areas such as Gomel in the former Soviet republic of Belorussia had suffered a massive increase in cancers in the years after the Chernobyl disaster.

MEDICAL BRIEFING

All change when the wise uncle becomes an aunt

WHEN my overseas patients are in London their time is at a premium, so as many as possible of their special tests are done before they have a consultant's opinion. One man had been struggling with swollen, painful knees totally disorganised by arthritis. Armed with X-rays, MRI scan and pathology lab reports, he went to see Mr William Muirhead-Allwood, who cast them to one side, held up his hands and said: "These are all I need to assess your knees."

Mr Muirhead-Allwood, the orthopaedic surgeon who has announced he is to have a sex-change operation, has been a doctor's doctor for years, one of the specialists doctors consult about their own and their family's troubles. His skills are greatly admired and his self-confident, decisive manner has always been acceptable to colleagues too knowledgeable to need a softly, softly approach.

Nobody was surprised when Mr Roger Vickers asked Mr Muirhead-Allwood to assist when the Queen Mother had a hip replacement. They make a powerful team.

Mr Muirhead-Allwood has voluntarily made a public statement about his intentions. The tragedy will be if his decision excites such prejudices, or engenders anxieties, which interfere with his future as a surgeon.

Doctors need to be relaxed to achieve a rapport. We learn to leave our financial, domestic and emotional problems behind when we are in the surgery or hospital but, if they are too great, they do intrude. This was demonstrated to me when I worked in a busy genito-urinary medical clinic. I prided myself that very few of the hundreds of women from whom I took cervical smears complained. Very occasionally I would have one or two "ooos" and "ouches" on the same day. I realised that these off-days coincided with some outside worry, and that, however much I thought I had put it out of my mind, my subconscious anxiety transmitted itself to the patient, who became tense.

The late Maurice Macmillan, when Shadow Minister of Health, spent weeks studying doctors as they worked and came to the conclusion that the best results in dealing with patients were achieved by those who related as if they were members of their own family. To some they behaved like sons, to others like fathers, uncles or brothers.

If Mr Macmillan was right, the doctor who changes his gender identity will have to relearn his interpersonal skills and redefine his consulting room relationships. Likewise, a patient who has regarded their doctor as a friendly but knowledgeable brother, or a wise uncle versed in medicine, will have to develop a totally new relationship.

Patients like continuity, which they equate with dependability. A sex-change would be more difficult for a GP who has a permanent relationship with patients than for a specialist who is forever seeing new cases.

Male transsexuals feel they have the mind of a woman imprisoned in a male body. Initially they are usually content to adopt feminine clothes, jewellery and manners to pass the day when away from work and family friends. Later, many tire of the stress and hypocrisy this causes and seek radical surgery.

Only people who have a stable background socially and professionally, and are worried about their gender identity when cheerful as well as when stressed and unhappy, are suitable candidates.

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

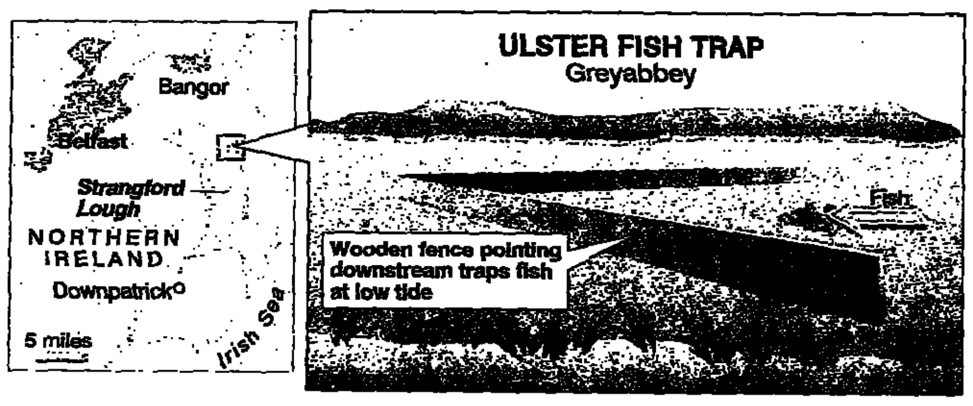
WINNER OF TWO INTERNATIONAL GOLD MEDALS? (8)

SPONSORS OF THE TIMES CROSSWORD COMPETITION

How tides have trapped fish for 1,000 years

By Nicholas Watt, Ireland correspondent

Strangford Lough, where the locals may have trapped fish for sale 1,000 years ago



ARCHAEOLOGISTS have uncovered the remains of giant wooden fish traps dating back 1,000 years on the mudflats of Strangford Lough in Co Down.

During a survey of the tidal lough last summer, archaeologists also uncovered evidence of the first settlers in Ireland in the Mesolithic era 8,000 years ago. Flint tools from the period were found among cockle beds and the remains of oyster shells.

Most attention has focused on the remains of V-shaped fish traps discovered on the mudflats of Greyabbey Bay. They show that the lough, an area of special scientific interest, was highly developed in the early Christian period.

The traps, which were set across small tidal channels, consisted of two "arms" 300 metres long. The arms, which were up to two metres high, were made of woven wattle supported by oak posts which were driven into the mudflats. The archaeologists found remains of the wooden stakes.

Brian Williams, a senior archaeologist at the Northern Ireland Environment and Heritage Service, said: "At high tide, the fish traps flooded with seawater. As the tide ebbed, any fish caught inside would be trapped in a basket, known as a putt, at the end of the trap. Someone would then pick up the fish. The traps extended over a wide area, which suggests there may have been commercial rather than simply domestic exploitation of the fish."

Mr Williams has used radiocarbon samples to date the remains of three wooden fish traps to 1037, 1053, and 1275. He believes that the fish traps were used by the inhabitants of a ringfort on the shores of the lough which dated back to the early Christian period.

The remains of fish traps can still be seen on the lough at low tide because stone traps were placed over the wooden versions in the 12th and 13th centuries. Mr Williams believes that the stone traps were probably built by the Cistercian community at the nearby Grey Abbey.

No, honestly.

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The Harlequin, as it's called, started life as a car show gimmick to indicate the colours available.

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We've even made one that runs on rabbit droppings.

The Polo Harlequin.

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Dismissed MI6 man 'denied justice'

AN MI6 officer who was sacked last year is claiming unfair dismissal (Michael Evans writes). But he has been prevented from taking his case to an industrial tribunal because MI6 staff are barred from taking such action when they join the service.

The Sunday Times**, which reported the sacking yesterday, said the MI6 officer was allegedly sacked for lack of commitment to the service. He was allowed to take his case before an internal tribunal headed by Lord Justice Brown but his claim was dismissed. He told *The Sunday Times* that he had been denied justice. "I had no legal representation or access to papers said to give reasons for my dismissal."**

Intelligence sources said: "It's impossible for a sacked MI6 officer to go to an industrial tribunal because it would mean disclosing classified information."

MI5 spies join Whitehall performance pay scheme

BY MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE 2,000 staff at MI5 have been put on performance-related pay to guarantee value-for-money intelligence-gathering. The counter-espionage and counter-terrorist officers of the Security Service have joined the same management culture as the rest of Whitehall. The Armed Forces are to adopt the system soon

Under the scheme, individual MI5 staff are expected to set objectives for the year to their line managers. If they achieve their targets, they are given certain "box markings" that will decide their level of pay. Security sources said even those officers engaged in long-term penetration of terrorist organisations were expected to set themselves annual objectives to benefit from the scheme.

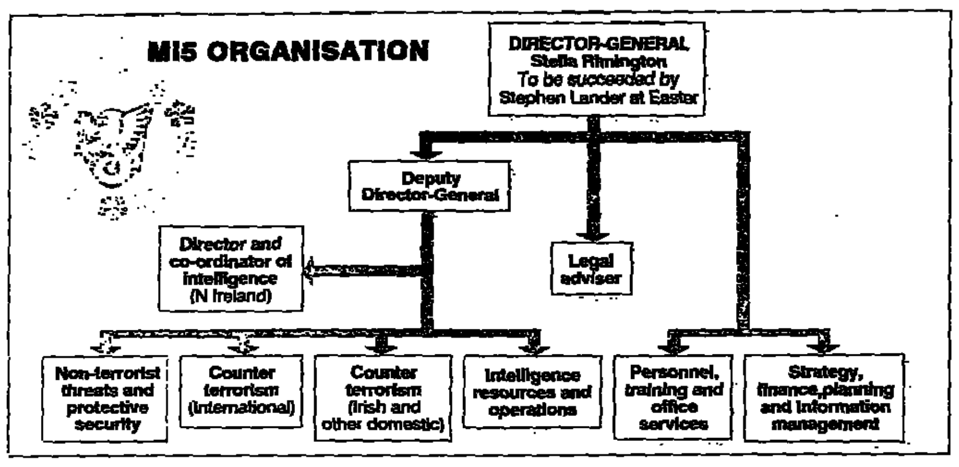
The performance pay disclosure is made in a booklet published by the Security Service at the end of last week. The intention was to create "a cascade effect" under which individual objectives achieved by MI5 staff helped to fulfil the overall aims for the whole organisation.

The booklet disclosed that after a review by Sir Michael Quinlan, a former permanent under-secretary at the Ministry of Defence, into MI5's structure and targeting policy, a committee had been formed which sets annual priorities and objectives for the Security Service. MI5's priorities in terms of threats to national security are now examined and validated each year by a sub-committee of the Cabinet Official Committee on Security and approved by ministers. The organisation of MI5 is also detailed in the new booklet, which highlights the importance of the department responsible for strategy and planning.

According to the booklet, MI5 has stepped up efforts to prevent British companies, universities and scientific institutions from helping rogue states to develop weapons of mass destruction.

Despite export restrictions controlling the sale of sensitive equipment to other countries, MI5 has said that there are many companies in Britain which could potentially, although largely unwittingly, give assistance to nuclear, mechanical and biological weapons programmes.

"A number of countries are known actively to be seeking western technology, expertise and materials to further their own programmes to develop weapons of mass destruction," MI5 said. These countries had developed "highly sophisticated worldwide procurement networks".


MI5 ORGANISATION
DIRECTOR-GENERAL Stella Rimington To be succeeded by Stephen Lander at Easter
Deputy Director-General
Director and co-ordinator of intelligence (N Ireland)
Legal adviser
Non-terrorist threats and protective security
Counter terrorism (international)
Counter terrorism (Irish and other domestic)
Intelligence resources and operations
Personnel, training and office services
Strategy, finance, planning and information management

MARC HILL

Régis de Bouvier de Cachard, a French artist, joins protesters in Lyme Regis yesterday against plans for a lifeboat station that would block views of The Cobb, seen in Karel Reisz's film of John Fowles's *The French Lieutenant's Woman*

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By way of an apology, The Conservative Party has decided to offer British tax payers their money back. A £2,030 refund to be exact. With 22 new taxes since 1992, that's how much we've pinched from you.

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CONSERVATIVE ?

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Heseltine leads drive for sale of West Coast line

BY JONATHAN PRYNN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL HESELTINE and Brian Mawhinney are putting intense pressure on Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary, to sell the troubled West Coast main line rail franchise before the election.

The Deputy Prime Minister and the Tory party chairman see the London to Glasgow InterCity franchise as a crucial "scalp" for the privatisation policy. The route has fallen to the back of the queue because the 400-mile track is in urgent need of modernisation, making the route far harder to sell. Railtrack is planning an £800 million programme of improvements over nine years.

However, Mr Heseltine and Dr Mawhinney, a former Transport Secretary, believe the sale of the franchise would act as a vital counter to Labour claims that privatisation acts as a deterrent to investment.

"If we can get West Coast away, it proves that the system can deal with selling a franchise at the same time as a major upgrading of the route that it runs on," a senior government source said.

The line, which serves 20 million people, runs through or past a swath of Tory-held marginal seats in the Midlands and the North West.

Mr Heseltine has taken a keen interest in privatisation, frequently interfering in the Department of Transport's presentation of the policy, which has remained resolutely unpopular with the public throughout the sale. Ministers now believe the worst is over and that with the sale gathering pace and Labour's attacks blunted by its own policy problems, it will turn into a vote winner.

Mr Heseltine wants all 25 franchises to be sold before the election, but is particularly concerned about the two biggest franchises not yet on the market, West Coast and ScotRail, which is complicated by a dispute with the Strathclyde Passenger Transport Executive. The two are now expected to be put on the market in the summer or autumn, with handover to the private sector by early next year, if the sales run smoothly.

So far, only two franchises, South West and Great Western, have actually changed hands. A further five — InterCity East Coast, Network SouthCentral, Gatwick Express, Midland Main Line, and LTS Rail, which was pulled from the brink of sale in February — are expected to be under new ownership by the end of April.

The West Coast main line track has not been upgraded for 30 years. Railtrack was recently ordered by the Health and Safety Executive to carry out emergency improvements to the track at Euston, its London terminus, after a succession of derailments.

Military police chief gains right to bonus

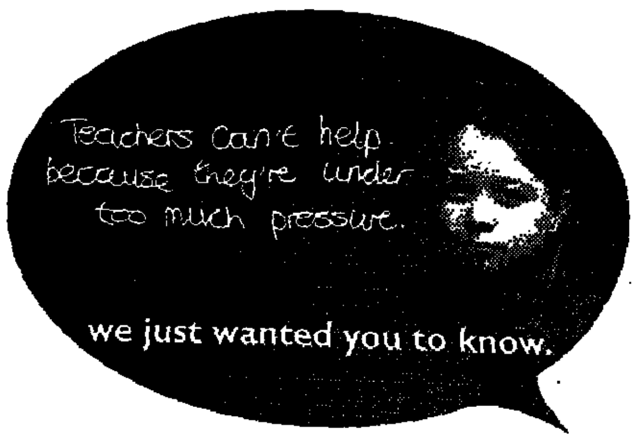
BY STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

THE Chief Constable of the country's eighth biggest police force will receive bonus pay if he runs his force efficiently under government reforms starting today.

The Ministry of Defence Police is the first force to become an agency under the Government's "Next Steps" initiative. Wally Boreham, a former Scotland Yard officer who now heads the ministry force, will receive extra payments, yet to be negotiated, on top of a salary of more than £60,000 if the force meets cost and efficiency targets.

Known unofficially as the "Mod Plod", the force has 4,500 officers responsible for protecting military installations and the ministry's civilian plants. Three quarters of the force is armed at any one time.

Senior officers in the force believe agency status will mean that they can make money from hiring out training facilities.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University review challenges dominance of colleges in decision making

Management consultants take aim at Oxford elite

By John O'Leary, Education Editor

MANAGEMENT consultants are proposing to change the balance of power within Oxford University to give academic departments a stronger role and to introduce a central administration more in line with other universities.

The traditional dominance of the colleges and the complex system of government make Oxford slow to react to opportunities, particularly in research, the report by Coopers and Lybrand says.

The report recommends that Congregation, the dons' parliament, should lose its place as the supreme body in the university, delegating its powers to a streamlined general council to include college heads, elected dons and up to three outsiders.

The Vice-Chancellor, Oxford's senior academic, would serve for longer and acquire three deputies to share the administrative load. They would chair three new boards, responsible for planning, standards and liaison with the colleges. Outsiders would be brought in to sit on influential committees and advise on appointments.

The number of faculties would be reduced, possibly by half, and the new subject units would have more power. Where disagreements arose over teaching, the "burden of proof" would lie with the colleges.

The report says that the university should delegate more decision-making and introduce greater accountability. Among the other main recommendations are:

☐ Some colleges to specialise, rather than each trying to teach all subjects;

☐ Better planning, including a new central unit, to prevent wasteful internal competition for research grants;

☐ Oxford to take a "more visible lead" in developing ideas about higher education.

Although apparently bureaucratic, the changes advocated by the consultants would have an impact comparable to that brought about by the Franks Committee, which carried out Oxford's last fundamental review 30 years ago.

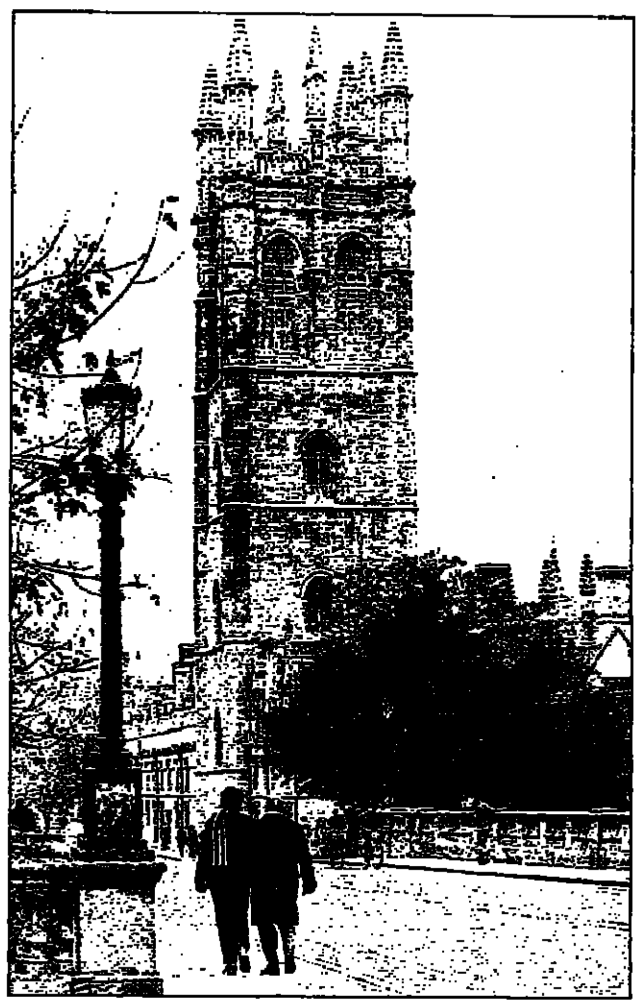
The report has already been considered by the Commission of Inquiry, chaired by Dr Peter North, the Vice-Chancellor, which is due to report before the end of the year. Members of the commission decided to reserve judgment on its recommendations until a wider debate in the university next term.

The commission has asked for responses before the end of next month. It has already issued its own initial conclusions, dismissing some of the more radical proposals to preserve Oxford's collegiate structure and tutorial teaching.

First reactions to the report cast doubt on the likelihood of change on the scale demanded by the consultants. Anthony Smith, the President of Magdalen College, said the proposals could lead to reform of "historic proportions" but there could be unintended damage to undergraduate teaching if too much emphasis was placed on research.

Robert Stevens, the Master of Pembroke College, said: "Many of the ideas are very sensible, but my worry is that we could end up with the worst of both worlds, destroying the teaching structure which makes the university what it is, without getting into the first division for research."

Sir Walter Bodmer, the world-renowned scientist who takes the helm at Hertford College in September, said the report was disappointing because the Vice-Chancellor still would not have sufficient authority. "I am amazed that they say they want more democracy. I would have thought that one of Oxford's problems was that it is absolutely riddled with democracy and cannot take decisions."



Magdalen College, Oxford, one of those whose dominance is accused of stifling opportunity

Alarm firm settles dispute over theft

By Peter Foster

A MAN who lost antiques worth £200,000 in a burglary has reached an out-of-court settlement with the company that sold him his burglar alarm.

Michael Clarke-Jervoise filed a High Court writ against Chubb Alarms after his insurance company refused to pay out because the advanced infra-red intruder alarm system installed and maintained by Chubb had failed to go off.

The burglar's haul included George III silver spoons depicting the family's crest, a Regency regulator clock worth £14,000 and a landscape painting by the 17th-century Dutch artist Albert Cuyp valued at £150,000.

The valuables were being kept at Mr Clarke-Jervoise's former home, a six-bedroom Tudor house near Basingstoke. The writ catalogued six occasions between December 1992 and December 1993 when Chubb engineers visited the house and assured Mr Clarke-Jervoise that the alarm was working.

But when in February 1994 he visited his son who was working in Bolivia, leaving his wife and cleaning lady to watch the house and operate the alarm, burglars were able to break in without setting off the infra-red detectors.

Richard Harrison, solicitor to Mr Clarke-Jervoise, said Chubb had required a confidentiality clause as a condition of settling out of court. Mr Clarke-Jervoise, 66, would say only that he was "content" with the outcome and was still ruing the loss of the antiques. "The Cuyp landscape is a classic. It was bought by one of my ancestors in the middle of the 18th century and had been in the family ever since."

The Association of British Insurers advised policy holders whose insurance depended on alarms being fully operational to keep accurate service records and use only engineers accredited by the National Approval for Security Systems organisation, of which Chubb is a member.

Anyone who is unsure whether their alarm is working should immediately contact their insurance company and follow any recommendations for security measures while waiting for the alarm to be repaired.

Salmon fall linked to global warming'

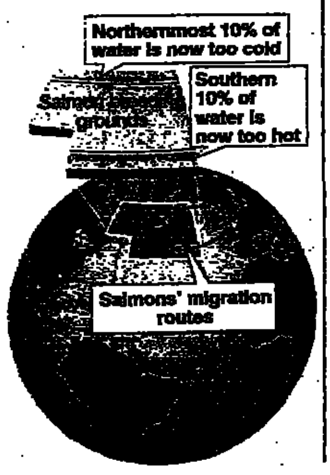
By Nick Nuttall
Environment Correspondent

A DECLINE in numbers of spring salmon in British rivers has been linked to global warming. Researchers believe the area of the northwest Atlantic able support the fish during the winter has fallen by a fifth.

Dave Reddin, a scientist at the Canadian Government's North West Atlantic Fisheries Centre in St John's, Nova Scotia, said: "Sea temperatures in the northern part of the habitat have been getting colder but in the south they have been getting warmer. So the area the salmon can inhabit is collapsing on itself."

The findings mirror computer models of global warming caused by pollution rises: "Part of the predictions is that the northern part of the northwest Atlantic will get colder because of Arctic ice melting, bringing colder waters in the Labrador current."

Some spring salmon runs have declined markedly in recent years, forcing the authorities and anglers to adopt restrictions. Captain Jeremy Read of the Atlantic Salmon Trust said it was vital that fishing of spring salmon in the sea and rivers was reduced.


Northernmost 10% of water is now too cold
Salmon feeding grounds
Southern 10% of water is now too hot
Salmons' migration routes

Smuggler fails to win recompense

A convicted drug smuggler who served seven years has unanimously lost his case in the European Court of Human Rights to make the Government pay him more than £300,000 compensation. Peter Welch, a former rock guitarist, alleged that he lost money because of a court order, applied retrospectively, banning him from dealing in properties in Portugal, Swansea and Chislehurst, southeast London.

Last flight

The RAF's basic training aircraft, the Chipmunk, was grounded yesterday after nearly 50 years of service. It took over from the Tiger biplane in 1949 and although replaced in the late 1950s continued to be used by university squadrons and air cadets.

Anti-flak patrol

Traffic wardens in Cardiff are to be issued with bullet-proof jackets to combat an increase in assaults. But one warden said: "Drivers don't shoot or stab us — they try to run us over. I can't see a flak-jacket giving us much protection against that."

D-day for Welsh

New drivers in Wales can display only D-plates (dysgwr is Welsh for learner) from today, instead of having L-plates as well. Rod Richards, a Welsh Office Minister, said: "It is part of enabling Welsh to be used more in everyday life."

Bus chase

A boy aged 16 was charged with aggravated vehicle-taking after police chased a British Airways bus 40 miles along the M4 between Thames Valley and Wiltshire. Five teenagers were charged with being passengers knowing the vehicle was taken.

Martini's ugly advert leaves bitter aftertaste

By Oliver August

THE Advertising Standards Authority has censured Martini for a television advertisement telling viewers to have cosmetic surgery so they "look good enough" to drink it.

After receiving many complaints, it ruled that the advertisement was hurtful to disabled people and could be shown only after 9pm. The advertisement shows a man who apparently feels too ugly to drink Martini and seeks cosmetic surgery. Emerging self-confidently from the hospital afterwards, he happily sips the drink in the company of a woman. Another advertisement considered "offensive" by the authority portrayed a quiz show in which the winners have cosmetic surgery.

The Independent Television Commission, which collects such complaints, "was particularly concerned about the possible impact on facially disfigured children who would not necessarily interpret the material in the relatively sophisticated way intended", the authority said. Martini said the advertisements were intended to satirise vanity.

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Reg Letter (e.g. K) ________ Will your next car be New ☐ Used ☐ Likely replacement date: Month ☐☐ Year ☐☐ e.g. [09][96] ■ Tick box for 'Mobility' details ☐

elf

Labour and Liberal Democrats hunt council seats lost after Major's 1992 triumph

Honeymoon joy fades away for embattled Tories

By Ian Murray, Community Correspondent

NOMINATIONS close today for the local elections on May 2, when John Major will discover whether he has at last succeeded in rallying *real support and can hope* to stay in Downing Street beyond next year.

The Tories slumped to their *worst defeat yet in local* elections a year ago, losing nearly 1,800 seats and control of 59 councils. A comparable drubbing this year would make a recovery before a general election almost impossible.

Their task is all the more difficult because the 1,218 seats they are defending were won in the honeymoon after the *1992* general election. *They* took 48 *per cent* of the vote *then*, capturing traditional Labour seats in the Midlands and the North. *Michael Howard. then Environment Secretary.* spoke confidently of "a sea change in British politics".

The party's fortunes have declined in every local election since. In the county council elections in 1993 they lost 15 shires, retaining control only of Buckingham. In 1994 they lost all but three London boroughs and the Liberal Democrats swept through the West. *Last year their share of* the vote collapsed to 27 per cent. They were left in overall control of only eight districts and lost control of Trafford, their last remaining metropolitan council. The Liberal Democrats overtook them as the *second party of local government*, capturing 14 districts to give them control of 45 town halls.

Labour. however, now runs 155 authorities and has more councillors than the combined total of Tories and Liberal *Democrats. With opinion* polls showing Labour is up to 30 points in front, the Tory candidates this year face a daunting task.

The May elections will be in only those authorities where a third of the seats are contested *each year. They include* 100 districts and the 36 metropolitan authorities, but none of the shires or *London* boroughs. *There are also elections for full* shadow councils for the 13 new all-purpose unitary authorities, which take over in *12 months*.

The Tories control only four of the districts — Broxbourne in Hertfordshire, Huntingdon, *Macclesfield and Runnymede*. They stand no realistic chance of winning any of the new unitaries.

Labour runs 37 of the districts, 31 *of the metropolitan* councils and nine of the authorities being replaced by the unitaries. The *Liberal* Democrats control 16 of the districts and one of the unitary areas. The Independents, who led Rutland's successful fight for unitary status, *should* be rewarded by being voted into power there. All the other councils are currently hung.

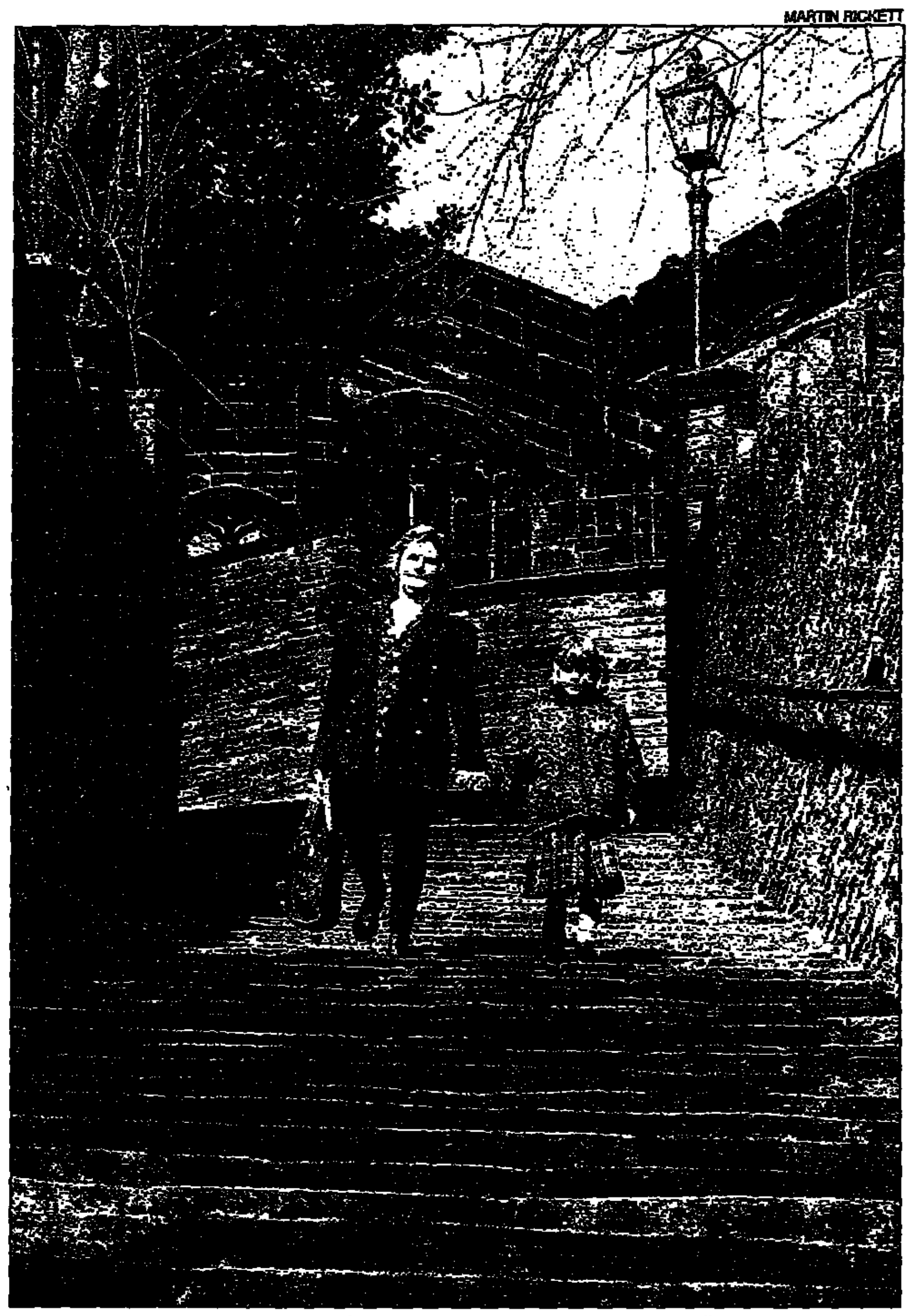
Ron Watson, chairman of the Conservatives' national local government advisory committee, has the task of co-*ordinating their* campaign. A Sefton councillor for 27 years and a member of the Audit Commission, he believes cost-*efficient local government* is the best way to bring back disenchanted Tory voters.

Labour is being carefully pessimistic about keeping all the 1,216 seats it won in 1992. "It is impossible for us to do as well as last year," says Frank Dobson, the Shadow Environment Secretary.

"I think we are in with a *chance at a number of hung councils* like Trafford, Milton Keynes, Peterborough and Basildon, but there is no chance of us capturing any of *the four Tory districts.*"

The Liberal Democrats do not share Labour's caution. Paddy Ashdown called in his *local* government leaders to tell them that their councils were "the proud showcase of what practical Liberal Democrat action is all about".

MARTIN RICKETT



The Conservatives face an uphill task in Macclesfield but are confident of victory

Village voters allow isolated party to survive

By Ian Murray

MACCLESFIELD is the last remaining Conservative coun*cil in the North of England.* The Tories must hold on to the Cheshire borough if they want to be seen as anything more than a regional party confined *to the South East.*

A prosperous mill town, Macclesfield is the centre of a rural borough as big as the Isle of Man. *Eric Cantona* and *commuting* London stockbrokers are near neighbours in the green and wealthy Cheshire countryside. Only one in 20 is unemployed and the borough is home to 17,000 managers and 2,400 unskilled manual workers.

The town's 60,000 population elects 18 councillors of whom only two are Tory. The 90,000 *in the surrounding* towns and villages elect 42 councillors of whom 31 are Tory. Hence, the Conservatives *hold 33 of the 60 seats on* the council. They are defending 15 of them on May 2 and if Labour and the Liberal Democrats can capture *three, the* Tories will lose control for the first time in memory.

Dr Mike Sewart, the deputy Tory leader, said: "In national terms we stand no chance at all, but I am confident we will keep control because people recognise we have done such a good job."

He pointed proudly to the borough's new budget showing no cuts in services and a council tax increase of 3.7 per cent, well below the national average. "Even Labour said they were only voting against *our budget* because they disagreed with the way the Government treats local authorities. They actually didn't *find anything in the budget* to complain about."

He sees the main local issue as stopping the intrusion into *the borough's green belt by* developers. "We don't want further immigration and more people ruining the environment *by getting into their* cars to drive to work."

Cars in Macclesfield are seen as a big problem by all the parties. The borough is so *prosperous that more families* have two cars than *no car at* all: *more than* 4,000 households have three or more. Consequently, parking is close to the top of the list of local election issues. *Ron Short, the Labour leader*, asked what he would press for first if the Tories lost control, said: "Improving residents' parking and setting up park *and ride.*"

He still believes national issues are the key to breaking Tory control. He concentrates on trying to couple successful *local leadership with government* failures.

But after serving on the council in opposition for 27 years, *Mr Short clearly finds it* difficult to believe that even now the Conservatives can lose control. "We are a major*ity in the town but all the* decisions are made by people in the surrounding areas who have a majority of the votes. *We have good ideas for what* we want to do but they don't win votes in the villages."

Hedley Cleaver, *the retiring Liberal Democrat leader*, believes his party can take up to five seats from the Tories by concentrating on local issues. "People *believe we are the* party that gets results on things that matter to them in their everyday lives like traffic calming and *street lights.*"

Labour will not work with the Liberal Democrats in the case of a hung council — they cannot be trusted to vote correctly, according to Mr Short — and Mr Cleaver wants no part of an alliance. "I *so much disagree with so many of the things* Labour does," he said. "But we feel we could still work well in a hung council making up our mind which *policy to support on* each issue and pushing through our own ideas with the help of the officers."

The Conservatives see a lack of co-operation between the two opposition parties as a further pointer to their ability *to hang on to power.* "There is not much animosity between us really," Dr Sewart said. "In Macclesfield on most issues we genuinely work together as *a coalition.*"

Unloved counties consigned to annals of local history

SO FAREWELL then Avon, Cleveland and Humberside. Widely ridiculed and unwanted when they were created *in* 1974, the three counties with their 21 district councils cease to exist today. Sixty-two Scottish and 45 Welsh district authorities also go.

In their place, with responsibility for all local *government* services from emptying dustbins to educating children, there will be unitary authorities of the kind Michael *Heseltine envisaged six years ago* when Environment Secretary.

The reorganisation is costing at least £100 million and 6,500 staff have been made redundant or taken early retirement. The numbers are expected to swell as new authorities streamline their staff and services.

Although they have *new functions* and responsibilities, the new councils have old names and old loyalties. Unloved Humberside will be reborn north of the river as The East Riding of Yorkshire and the City and County of Kingston upon Hull.

The shake-up has caused uncertainty among senior officers of de*funct councils. The Convention of* Scottish Local Authorities found that 600 of 1,343 chief officer posts in Scotland were disappearing, while average pay for chief executives had risen from £57,000 to £74,000. In England the number of departmental directors has fallen from 420 to 291.

The changes below show the old county or region in bold, then the new unitary authority, with the districts they replace in brackets.

ENGLAND

Avon: to Gloucestershire: Bristol; South Gloucestershire (Kingswood, Northavon): to Somerset: North West Somerset (Woodspring): *Bath and North East Somerset (Bath, Wansdyke).*

Cleveland: to Durham: Hartlepool; Stockton. To Yorkshire: *Middlesbrough; Redcar and Cleveland* (Langbaugh).

Humberside: *To Yorkshire: Hull, East Riding* (Holderness, Beverley, East Yorks, parts of Boothferry). *To Lincolnshire: North East Lincs* (Cleethorpes, Grimsby): North Lincs (parts of Boothferry, Glanford, Scunthorpe).

WALES

Clwyd: Split between: (Aberconwy) & Colwyn; Denbighshire (Rhuddlan and Glyndwr); Flintshire (Alyn & Deeside, Delyn); Wrexham.

Dyfed: Split between: Cardiganshire (Ceredigion); *Carmarthenshire (Carmarthen, Dinefwr, Llanelli);* Pembrokeshire (Preseli, South Pembrokeshire).

Gwent: Split between: Monmouthshire (Monmouth); Newport; Torfaen; Blaenau Gwent; part of Caerphilly (Islwyn).

Gwynedd: Split between: Aberconwy (& Colwyn); *Caernarfonshire & Merionethshire (Arfon, Dwyfor, Meirionnydd)*; Anglesey (Ynys Môn Isle of Anglesey).

Mid Glamorgan: Split between: Bridgend (Ogwr); Rhondda, Cynon Taff (Taff Ely, Rhondda, Cynon Valley; Merthyr Tydfil; part of Caerphilly (Rhymney Valley).

Powys: Powys (Montgomery, Radnorshire, Brecknock)

South Glamorgan: Split between: Vale of Glamorgan; Cardiff.

West Glamorgan: Split between: Swansea; (Swansea, Lliw Valley); Neath & Port Talbot (Neath, Port Talbot)

SCOTLAND

Regional councils

Borders: The Borders (Berwickshire, Roxburgh, Ettrick & Lauderdale, Tweeddale)

Central: *Stirling; Falkirk; Clackmannan*

Dumfries and Galloway: Dumfries and Galloway (*Annandale & Eskdale, Nithsdale, Stewartry, Wigtown*).

Fife: Fife (Dunfermline, Kirkcaldy, North East Fife)

Grampian: Aberdeen; Aberdeenshire (Banff & Buchan, Gordon, Kincardine & Deeside); Moray

Highland: *Highland (Badenoch & Strathspey,* Caithness, Inverness, Lochaber, Nairn, Ross & *Cromarty, Skye & Lochalsh, Sutherland)*

Lothian: East Lothian, Midlothian, Edinburgh, West *Lothian.*

Strathclyde: Argyll & Bute; South Ayrshire (Kyle & *Carrick); East Ayrshire (Cumnock & Doon Valley,* Kilmarnock & Loudon); South Lanarkshire (Clydes*dale, East Kilbride, Hamilton); North Lanarkshire* (Cumbernauld, Monklands, Motherwell, Strath*kelvin); Glasgow; East Dumbarton (Strathkelvin,* Bearsden & Milngavie); East Renfrewshire *(Eastwood); Dumbarton & Clydebank (Dumbarton,* Clydebank); Renfrewshire; Inverclyde; North Ayr*shire (Cunninghame)*

Tayside: Angus; Dundee; Perth & Kinross.

Orkney Islands, Shetland Islands, Western Isles

End of ceasefire puts pressure on Sinn Fein in Irish ballots

By Nicholas Watt
Ireland Correspondent

SINN FEIN will face its first electoral test tomorrow since the collapse of the IRA ceasefire. It is fielding candi*dates in two parliamentary* by-elections in the Irish Republic, where the party failed to win more than a derisory few *hundred votes in most seats* during the 1992 election.

Widespread anger with the IRA for resuming its violent campaign may cost Sinn Fein votes in the polls at Co Donegal and in Dublin. The greatest attention is focused on Donegal North East where its candidate is Pat Doherty, the party's vice-president.

The constituency runs along the border with Co London*derry in Northern Ireland*. The by-election was caused by the death last year of Neil Blaney, the independent Dail *member*, who was expelled from the Fianna Fail party in 1971 when he faced charges for importing arms to the Repub*lic for the* IRA. The charges were later dropped.

Mr Doherty, 50, regarded as one of the republican move*ment's strategists, hopes* to win votes from Blaney's fiercely republican supporters, to push up Sinn Fein's vote from *800 at the last election to* 3,000, which would be 10 per cent of the likely poll. However, he faces a tough fight for the republican vote from Mr Blaney's brother Harry, and from Cecilia Keaveney, the official Fianna Fail candidate, who are the main contenders for the seat.

Mr Doherty, who lives in *the constituency, received* a polite reception from voters as he canvassed over the weekend. At Rathmelton, a village *with a high proportion of* Protestants, voters wished him luck, although most refused to say whether they would vote for him.

Noreen Sweeney, a *pensioner*, said: "I would like the ceasefire back. People in this area want peace, so I cannot see many people voting Sinn Fein." Another villager said he would vote for Sinn Fein to register anger over the British and Irish Governments' handling of the peace process. Jim Gallagher, 41, said: "Pat is a good candidate and he would stir things up in the Dail."

Mr Doherty, who canvassed yesterday with Gerry *Adams, his party's president*, conceded that most voters wanted the ceasefire restored, although many shared his *criticisms of the British* Government and Unionists. He said: "I have not encountered too much hostility on the doorsteps. *I* tell people that we are trying to re-establish the package which led to the ceasefire. People recognise our role in the peace process."

Mr Doherty, a construction engineer who was born in Glasgow and moved to Co *Donegal aged 22, is regarded* in Dublin as one of the more affable members of Sinn Fein. Asked whether he has ever been a member of the IRA, he said: "I have been a member of Sinn Fein since 1970."

The other by-election, in Dublin West, was caused by the death of Brian Lenihan, the former Fianna Fail deputy prime minister. Brian Jr, his son, is the favourite.

KELVIN BOYES

Pat Doherty, Sinn Fein vice-president, goes canvassing in Rathmelton

Embassies lose track of public art

By Nigel Williamson
Whitehall Correspondent

LABOUR MPs *have called for an investigation into how ten British* embassies around the world have "lost" pictures from the Government Art Collection. Embassies in Bangkok, Buenos Aires, *Lagos, Hanoi, Jedda, Santiago, Cape Town, Beirut,* Baghdad *and* Belgrade have in the past five years reported works of art on loan from the government collection as missing.

Angela Eagle, a *Labour MP on the* Public Accounts Committee, has asked the National Audit Office to look into the disappearance of more than 450 pictures from the government collection, *half of them from Foreign Office buildings. Ms* Eagle said: "They may not be very valuable but they are public property. There is the suspicion that some people may be treating them as their personal property." However, the Foreign Office said: "*Given the global* upheavals of the 20th century and the lack of proper records it would not be surprising if pictures have been lost."

Among more recent losses are *Off Reculvers*, an 1826 watercolour by Bentley, from the embassy in Chile. *Prints of* the Bank of England and St Paul's Cathedral have gone missing from the consulate at Jedda. Last year the embassy *in Bangkok lost a print* by Trevelyan and the embassy in Buenos Aires *lost three* modern works in a series called *Paradox*.

Several works were lost when embassies were evacuated at short notice. Two *watercolours by Lodge* went missing from Baghdad during the Gulf *War* and a print of Eton College Chapel was lost *from the embassy* in Belgrade in 1993. The Department *of National Heritage* said that most of the missing *items were* "low budget" and of limited interest. A spokesman said: "The Government art collection *has a brief to* buy works of art that reflect the British way *of life. That* means it is long on landscapes and portraits of worthy people. It is very traditional and not of great value."

The Foreign Office has now introduced security *procedures, including the* barcoding of all pictures.

The department believes many "missing" works could have been wrongly listed or counted, or still be in Government possession. "*Missing* is not an absolute status. *Each year works are* found again, often in government locations, where they have been moved *without* authority and knowledge."

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Anne Frank Remembered: BBC2 Easter Monday at 7.00pm.
Best Documentary Feature: A Jon Blair Film in association with BBC Television and the Disney Channel.

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Hong Kong scrum for British passports amid twilight of colonial rituals

FROM TOM WALKER
IN HONG KONG

AS HONG KONG'S expatriate community wallowed in its annual beery binge of rugby "sevens" at the weekend, the colony's other main stadium found itself packed to the rafters too — with desperate last-minute applicants for British National Overseas passports.

Violence on the rugby pitch in the Hong Kong stadium was matched by chaotic scenes outside Wan Chai stadium, where tempers became frayed in a queue of 20,000 mainly Chinese hopefuls which snaked around the business district's pedestrian flyovers to Immigration Tower. One man was admitted to hospital having been hit over the head with a mobile phone, only to find himself arrested afterwards for causing a fracas.

Chris Patten, the Governor, wisely stayed in the rugby stadium, dancing with the distinctly non-Chinese mass to the tunes of Hong Kong Bank and Cathay Pacific advertisements, and was seen on closed-circuit television cheering the Hong Kong team run in a consolation try against France.

Meanwhile, such was the scale of the panic at Wan Chai that the Immigration Department worked through the night on Saturday; extra helpers came in to process nearly 60,000 weekend applications at a rate of 2,000 an hour and yesterday evening there were 700 officials working on all eight floors of Immigration Tower. All those joining the mile-long queue before midnight were guaranteed to have their applications processed. Future hopefuls will have to apply under Chinese rule.

The queue ran the gamut of end-of-empire society, from exasperated civil servants and businessmen barking down mobile telephones to sugarcane-chewing peasants; even a few sweating expatriates were to be found, worried about their status from next year. They were united in one concern only — that Peking could wreak havoc with their liberty to travel in and out of the Special Administrative Region of China. "I had no idea this might apply to *gweilos* [whites]," complained Stephen James, a designer from Bristol who has been here for 20 years. "But the more people I spoke to, the more people I discovered going through the process. I don't want to have to come back here under the Chinese and be queueing for a permit every six months."

Successful applicants will have unimpeded passage to and from Chinese-ruled Hong Kong, and visa-free access to about 80 countries after the sovereignty change. An Australian in the queue, 28-year-old Jason Wordie from Queensland, said he was prepared to relinquish his Australian passport. "It's not that I want to be British," he said. "But I want to be a citizen of Hong Kong."

About 175,000 applications have been received — more than double the number expected — although in theory up to two million Chinese, who have lived in the territory for five years, could have applied. There was no evidence that the relatively small proportion of passport-seekers would lead to a flood of Hong Kong visitors to Britain. "There are no jobs, it's expensive — I don't like the place," said Larry, a businessman originally from Shantung in northern China.

☐ **Anti-Peking protest:** More than 800 demonstrators took part in a march through Hong Kong yesterday in protest at Peking's heavy-handed efforts to reverse democratic reforms. They chanted: "Silence is not golden, it's fatal." *(Reuter)*

Chinese police raid American banquet in aid of orphans

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PEKING

CHINESE security police raided a banquet and stopped best-selling American writer Amy Tan, author of the novel *Joy Luck Club*, from making a speech to raise funds for Chinese orphans, the event's organisers said last night. The function was attended by the new American Ambassador to Peking.

The envoy, Jim Sasser, due to return to Washington shortly to lobby his former congressional colleagues to renew China's most favoured nation (MFN) status, was "flabbergasted" by the heavy-handed police tactics, said an American businessman sitting at the same table.

Most of the top United States and other foreign companies in Peking had sponsored tables at the banquet, at which Ms Tan, 44, a Chinese-American, was to make her speech, which had been publicised in advance.

"Ambassador Sasser just could not understand how the Chinese authorities could act with such insensitivity," said the businessman, who asked not to be named. "He is getting ready to go to the US to lobby on Peking's behalf on MFN — you can imagine how he must feel now."

Up to 40 Chinese security men were involved in the raid on the Holiday Inn Lido just before the banquet began. They wanted to stop the event altogether, but relented and put up partitions to divide the ballroom into sections. They also ripped banners from the walls that read "Love Children" and "Cherish Orphans".

Others at the event said that San Francisco-born Amy Tan, who also works with disabled children in America, was then banned from delivering her speech. However, she went from table to table to thank participants for their contributions.

Peking, which in recent weeks had tried to intimidate Taiwanese voters by staging live military exercises in the Taiwan Strait, is still smarting from allegations made this year that unwanted orphans had been allowed to die from starvation at a state-run Shanghai orphanage and at other children's homes.

James McGregor, chairman of the American Chamber of Commerce here, which was participating in the event, said: "This was designed purely to raise money to help Chinese orphans. Politics did not come into it at all — it is very disappointing."

The chamber is also sending a delegation to Washington in two weeks' time to lobby for a renewal of China's favoured trading status. "There are so many good people in China too," noted a member of the delegation.

"There are many positive things going on in China, but they are cancelled out by this folly. At a time like this the last thing Peking needs is bad publicity. What sense does it make to close an effort to aid orphans? China's image is already negative because of the Taiwan exercises."

During the raid, which took place an hour before the banquet was due to start, the plainclothes security men claimed that the organisers did not have permission to stage the $472 (£310) a head event. But sources close to the organisers said that Peking hotels held such charitable events almost nightly without any police interference.

"It was sheer stupidity to do this with the new American Ambassador present," said one participant. "The Chinese really have their feet in their mouths this time."

Organisers said that almost all the top American companies in Peking, from McDonnell-Douglas to Johnson & Johnson and Chevron, were represented among the 450 participants.

Taiwan plans military drills

Taipei: Taiwan will hold three military drills next week, including a live-fire exercise near China. Chiang Chung-lin, the Taiwanese Defence Minister, said they would take place from Sunday until the following Wednesday in the Matsu island group. ***(AFP)***

Demonstrators in Tokyo raise their fists yesterday in protest over the forced renewal of the leases for American military bases on Okinawa. Tens of thousands of people took part, putting more pressure on the

Thousands protest as US bases stay

Government in the run-up to President Clinton's visit in two weeks. The Communist organisers said about 90,000 people gathered in the capital in the biggest anti-American rally on the mainland since the rape of a 12-year-old girl by three US servicemen last September. About 1,500 police in Okinawa were guarding an American telecommunications base, the lease for part of which expired at midnight. ***(AFP)***

Caretaker appointed to save Dhaka democracy

FROM AHMED FAZL
IN DHAKA

THE Bangladesh parliament was prematurely dissolved at the weekend after Begum Khalida Zia, the Prime Minister, resigned and an Oxford-educated retired judge took charge to salvage the country's crumbling democracy. The transfer of power occurred as tens of thousands of opposition activists threatened to storm President Ahmed's house unless Begum Zia and her Council of Ministers, formed less than two weeks ago, stepped down.

The opposition Awami League led by Sheikh Hasina Wajed, a bitter foe of Begum Zia, has been waging a two-year campaign to unseat the Prime Minister. A disputed general election in February, which the opposition boycotted, gave a one-sided victory to Begum Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist Party.

Last month the "Battle of the Begums" escalated when the opposition launched a non-co-operation campaign, crippling the economy. The cost of their political confrontation has been huge, and the country is said to face famine conditions.

Diplomats in Dhaka say the appointment of Muhammad Habibur Rahman, 66, who retired as Chief Justice a year ago, as interim leader has blunted the threat of an imminent takeover by the armed forces. The military is already on the streets, guarding sensitive installations.

Mr Rahman has been asked to hold multiparty elections within three months. But given a legacy of violent electioneering, there are doubts about the prospects of a second peaceful poll this year.

Caine: tipped to play F. W. de Klerk

Search for actor to play Mandela

FROM RAY KENNEDY
IN JOHANNESBURG

THE search has begun to find a black South African actor to star as Nelson Mandela in the film of his autobiography, *Long Walk To Freedom*.

The film rights to the book have been granted to Anant Singh, a South African producer with an international reputation, and work is planned to start next year.

Mr Singh is non-committal over whether a South African will be cast in the role. "I want someone who will do justice to the part and at present I don't know where he will come from," he said yesterday. Mr Mandela said at the weekend: "It is our duty to primarily support our own artists."

His comments came as local actors expressed outrage that Sidney Poitier, the American star, is playing Mr Mandela in another film. Michael Caine is also tipped to play a role in the American-financed production as F. W. de Klerk, the last apartheid ruler, although physically there is no resemblance between the two.

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ANC presses Pretoria to abandon anti-Abacha line

FROM R. W. JOHNSON IN JOHANNESBURG

THE opposition to the Nigerian military regime of General Abacha suffered a setback at the weekend when its first conference in Africa was, in effect, crippled by its South African hosts.

Addressed by Wole Soyinka, the Nigerian Nobel Laureate, the conference was to have been a rallying point for Nigerian pro-democracy forces, leading to the establishment of a symbolically important headquarters on African soil.

The Nigerian opposition has looked to South Africa as its best friend after President Mandela's turnaround at the Commonwealth Heads of Government conference, when the execution of Ken Saro-Wiwa and other Nigerian dissidents saw the South African President abandon his conciliatory pose and lead a furious demand for sanctions against the Abacha regime.

Hardly had Mr Mandela returned home, however, than the murmuring campaign began. Since he had made policy on his own, neither the Foreign Ministry, the African National Congress, nor the Communist Party had been able to exercise their customary influence. Each had significant reservations. No African country has followed Mr Mandela's lead, leaving South Africa isolated diplomatically — just when Pretoria had wanted maximum African support for its attempt to win a seat on the United Nations Security Council.

South Africa had, ANC activists alleged, been tricked by "British and American imperialism" into taking the lead against Nigeria, so aligning itself with Western democracies rather than its natural Third World allies.

ANC radicals were discomfited to see the black American leader, Louis Farrakhan, go from South Africa to Lagos where he strongly endorsed the Abacha regime, rejecting Western criticism as white racism. The feeling has been growing within ANC and Communist Party circles that it might be best quietly to ditch Mr Mandela's human rights stand.

The Nigerian opposition's plan to hold a large conference, and even establish its headquarters, here must have seemed like a large step in the wrong direction. South African embassies quietly refused to grant General Sani Abacha's opponents visas. At the eleventh hour, the ANC's inner cabinet, the National Working Party, invited the organisers to cancel. The conference went ahead, but on a reduced scale and without publicity. Only Nigerians with British, American or Canadian passports were able to get into South Africa, leaving most delegates to meet at a separate conference in Norway.

Communist Party spokesmen here claimed the Abacha regime had stopped dissidents from leaving — a version of reality rebutted by those Nigerians who did attend.

Mr Soyinka and his compatriots are seeking clarification of the South African Government's attitude, hoping to hold it to Mr Mandela's human rights commitment. However, Mr Soyinka, bitterly attacking Mr Farrakhan for "wining and dining with our oppressors", scathingly suggested that those who believed military dictatorship was the appropriate form of government for the world's largest black nation were betraying their "slave mentality".

His speech shows Pretoria's dilemma. It does not wish to be at odds with the rest of Africa, but if the Government ditches Nigeria's democratic opposition, it could find that same rhetoric directed at the Mandela Government.

Nigerian top brass sacked

Lagos: Nigeria's military ruler, General Sani Abacha, sacked his army and air force chiefs in a surprise move that further shakes the unstable nation. According to a terse government statement on Saturday night, Major-General Alwali Kazir and Vice-Marshal Femi John Femi were replaced "effective immediately" by Major-General Ishaya Bamaiyi and Air Commodore Nsikak Eduok. ***(AP)***

Rockets fired into Galilee

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER
IN JERUSALEM

THE United States, Israel and Syria attempted yesterday to prevent an escalation of violence in Lebanon after pro-Iranian guerrillas fired nearly 30 Katyusha rockets into Galilee.

The Hezbollah attacks forced tens of thousands of Jews into shelters and the evacuation of holiday sites preparing for this week's Passover holiday. The renewed violence came as a severe blow to the Israeli tourist industry, already hit by thousands of cancellations from potential Passover and Easter holidaymakers deterred by the continuing threat of more suicide attacks by Islamic extremists.

"The confrontation line settlements have been put on emergency status and all necessary precautions have been taken," said Yossi Goldberg, the chairman of the council in Metulla, an Israeli holiday town situated only a few hundred yards from the Lebanese border.

As Washington put pressure on Syria — which has 46,000 troops in Lebanon — to use its influence to prevent further attacks, Israel took the unusual step of apologising for Saturday's attack on the village of Yatta, in which two Lebanese installing a water tank were killed and a three-year-old child was injured.

Gunboat blown up by Tigers

Colombo: Tamil Tiger rebels staged a seaborne suicide raid and attacked a military base in eastern Sri Lanka. At least 54 people were killed, officials said yesterday.

The Tigers rammed a boat laden with explosives against a gunboat, escorting a naval convoy taking supplies to the Jaffna peninsula, killing ten sailors. Helicopter gunships went to the rescue, sinking eight rebel boats. The military claimed 35 Tigers were killed. In Batticaloa, in the east, Tigers attacked two military posts, killing three soldiers and six civilians. *(AFP)*

Queen's official rejects republic

Sydney: Bill Hayden, who retired in February as Australia's Governor-General, has compared the move to a republic to "tarting up" an old vehicle you own, renaming it and buying it back as "somehow improved" (Roger Maynard writes). The Queen's former representative made the comments in his autobiography, published this week.

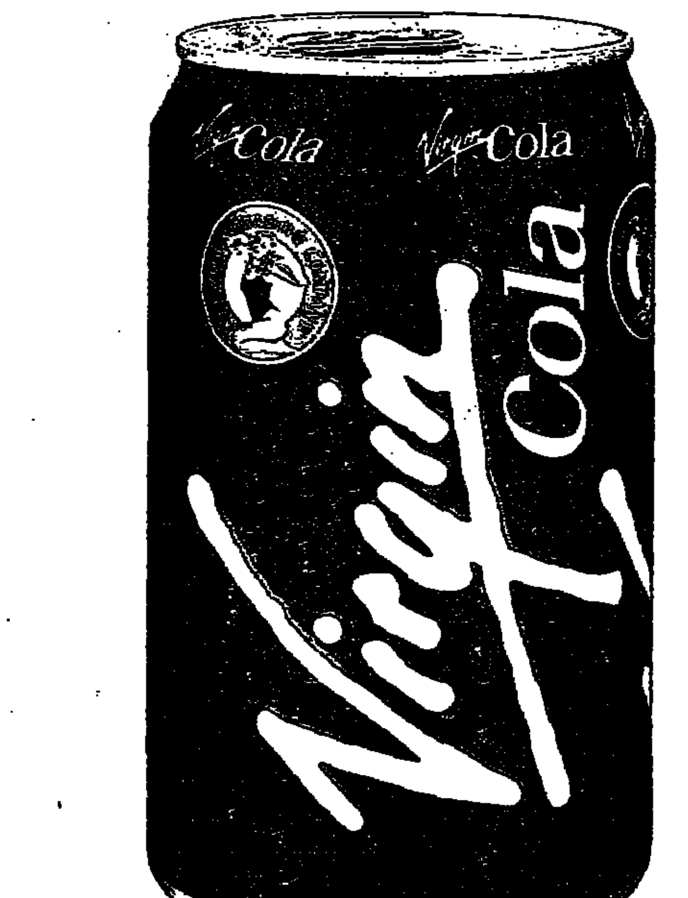
Sunken ships put Gulf at risk

Kuwait City: An environmental catastrophe could hit the coastlines of the Gulf states if more than 200 vessels, including oil tankers and gunships that were sunk during ten years of conflict, remain unsalvaged, Mahmoud Abdul Raheem, a marine expert, claimed. *(AFP)*

Plane crashes on motorway

Washington: A single-engine plane crashed into a car on a Massachusetts motorway, killing four people, including a child and the plane's two occupants. Police believe the pilot was trying to land after his engine had failed. *(AFP)*

BLUE CAN WARNING.



IF THE CAN TURNS BLUE THE COLA'S GONE FLAT.

Brussels directive E-3240 B outlaws the sale of cola after its "best before" date.

Thanks to new developments in packaging technology, in the unlikely event of a can of Virgin Cola remaining unsold after the statutory period, the can will react with the cola and turn blue.

Virgin strongly advises its customers to avoid all blue cans of
They are clearly out of date.

US agents pursue hacker of secrets across cyberspace

By Ian Brodie in Washington and Gabriella Gamini, South America Correspondent

THE United States authorities are seeking the extradition of an Argentine computer hacker who managed to penetrate top-secret American defence files from his bedroom in Buenos Aires.

Julio César Ardita, 21, used a basic computer at his parents' flat to gain access to Pentagon, Nasa and US Navy files, obtaining information about nuclear installations and defence programmes.

In a landmark case of a hacker being counter-hacked, US investigators used the first-ever court order allowing them to bug the Internet to trace the Argentine student.

Señor Ardita started infiltrating US government computer networks a year ago. The Americans claim that while the information was confidential it did not include national security secrets. But they want to interrogate him to find out what he obtained and whether he passed it on.

"This is the biggest cybernetic theft case of the electronic communications era," said Donald Stern, a prosecutor in Boston, who made the extradition request. The Argentine authorities have arrested Señor Ardita but say that the extradition treaty with the US does not include "information crimes".

In Washington, the Justice Department said the case was a preview of an era of cybersleuthing, in which FBI agents will spend time at terminals navigating through a web of electronic leads to catch computer crooks. The hacker's father, Julio Rafael Ardita, a retired military officer, told *The Washington Post* that if the systems his son allegedly broke into were vulnerable to a modest home computer there must be something seriously wrong with US security.

"Obviously the North Americans are not very clear about the security of their systems if a kid from South America can enter. I would be ashamed to admit it," he said.

His son was alleged to have entered Harvard University computers via the Internet and from there penetrated other networks, including Los Alamos National Laboratory where the first atom bomb was built, Nasa's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, the US Navy's Research Laboratory in Washington and its Control and Ocean Surveillance Centre in San Diego.

> ‘I've infiltrated the US Navy, I have even seen inside submarines’

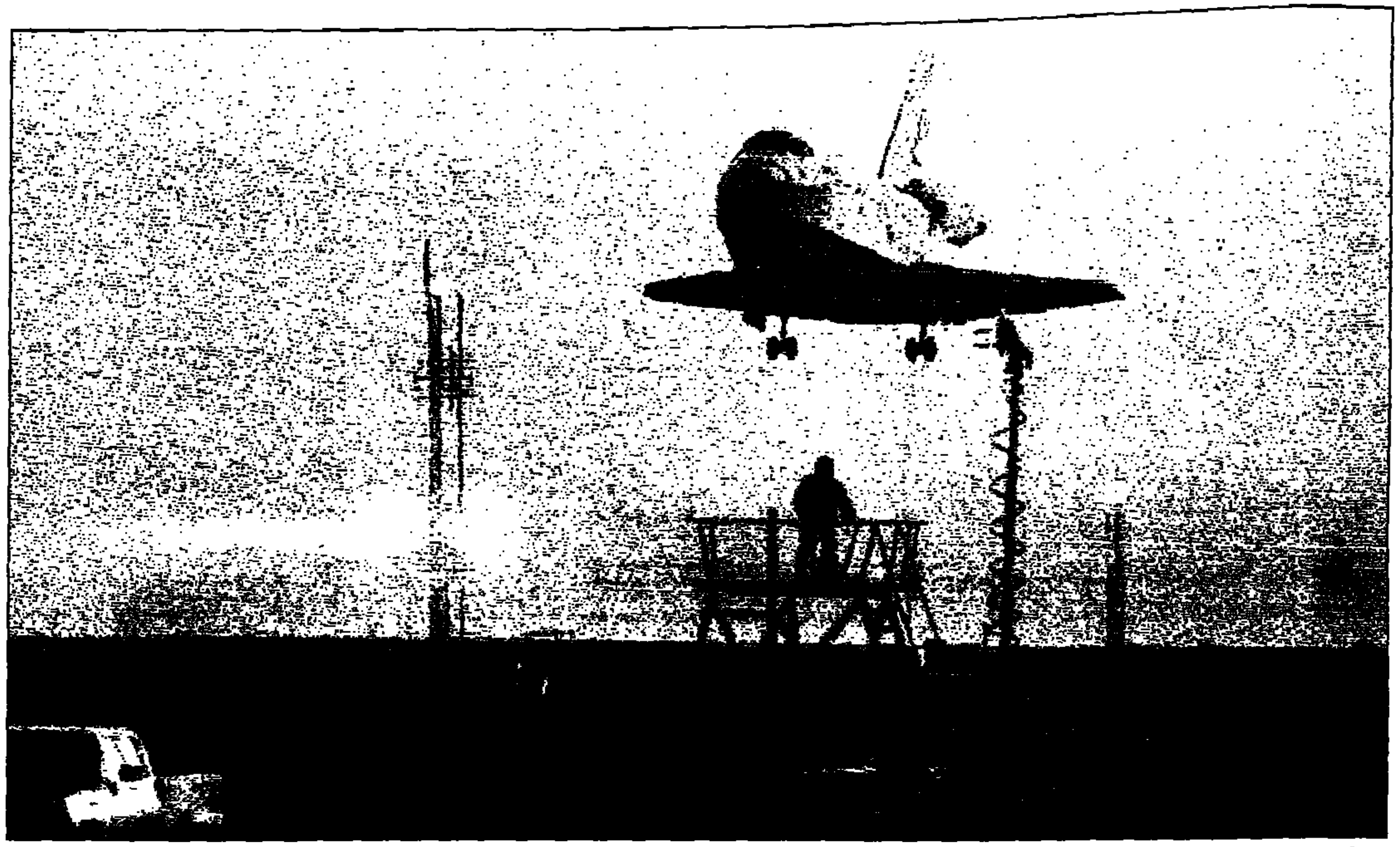
The trail began last August when the US Navy discovered files with whimsical names like Zap and Pinga showing up in its most sensitive computers. Opening the files, managers uncovered a "sniffer" programme designed to copy vital information such as passwords. They traced it back to Harvard where evidence of other "sniffer" probes was found.

Federal agents secretly obtained a court order giving them the computer equivalent of a telephone tap, enabling them to monitor private electronic communications coming into Harvard. Using their own high-speed computer, agents searched for 15 key words that might find the intruder among the ten million bits of information per second flowing into the Harvard network.

Whenever the investigators discovered a key word, they looked at only 80 characters on either side of it to keep their electronic eavesdropping to a minimum required by law. Only twice did they read a complete message that was unconnected to Señor Ardita, according to Stephen Heymann, a federal agent.

Agents tracked the hacker's pattern and eventually traced his whereabouts. Telecom Argentina then taped calls that Señor Ardita made to his girlfriend, in which he admitted illegally tapping into secret files. Monthly telephone bills of up to £1,150 also led his parents to make inquiries.

"I've infiltrated the US Navy, I've even seen inside submarines and much more," Señor Ardita said in the recordings. "I could very easily have wiped out files and rubbed out any information."



The *Atlantis* shuttle making a textbook landing at Edwards Air Force Base in California early yesterday at the end of a ten-day voyage to the Mir Russian space station.

Crisis turns heat on shuttle

On Saturday *Atlantis* came within ten minutes of having to undertake an emergency return to Earth when its cargo-bay doors refused to open to allow heat to escape (Ian Brodie writes). The crew of five were unable to open the doors when two control switches signalled that four of 16 latches had failed to release. The doors finally did open, however, and the shuttle remained in orbit for another day. "Everybody sighed very loudly when the doors opened," said Jeff Bantle, flight director at Mission Control in Houston. "Nervous? Yeah. Tense? Yes. Everybody was on the edge of their chairs. But they all responded very well." The crisis began after the doors had been [illegible] readiness for a landing attempt at the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida. The landing was cancelled because of cloudy skies. The doors needed to be reopened to allow radiators in the cargo bay to dispel heat from the shuttle's power and electronic systems. While they remained shut, the shuttle would have been able to remain in space for only four more hours before the heat build-up would have started to damage electrical circuits.

When Mission Control ordered the astronauts to make visual checks of the latches, it was found they had all unbolted and the crew was ordered to override the automatic system and open the doors. Mr Bantle said that in ten more minutes he would have ordered *Atlantis* to return to Earth — fast.

Dole taxed by wages issue

By Ian Brodie

PRESIDENT CLINTON'S opening salvo against Bob Dole, his election opponent, is a demand for him to stop blocking a Senate vote that would raise the minimum wage. It is a popular issue. Polls show that three out of four American voters support an increase in the minimum pay of $4.25 (£2.80) an hour, a figure that has remained unchanged for five years.

Mr Clinton is proposing an increase to $5.15 in two 45-cent steps over the next two years.

Mr Dole, the Senate Republican leader, is easily skewered on the topic. Senators' pay has gone up by a third in the past five years to $133,600 while about four million Americans have been stuck at $4.25 an hour and another eight million earn barely a dollar more. A full-time worker on the minimum wage earns $8,500 a year, almost half the poverty line set for a family of four. With the effects of inflation, the minimum wage is at its lowest level for 40 years.

Yet Mr Dole insisted during a Senate debate last week that raising the minimum would result in the sacking of tens of thousand of workers.

Foot soldiers desert US gun lobby

From Ian Brodie in Washington

THE seemingly impenetrable façade of the National Rifle Association has finally begun to crack.

In the past year, America's foremost gun rights lobbying group has lost 400,000 members, a 12 per cent drop. Contributions to its political action committee fell by more than a fifth.

The NRA is far from being counted out. It still lavishes money on members of Congress and wields influence over their votes. Only last week House Republicans kept their promise to the NRA by repealing a ban on some of the deadliest assault weapons, a move President Clinton has sworn to veto.

For all its influence, however, the NRA is at last suffering from increased public concern and a sustained counter-campaign by anti-gun lobbyists — including hundreds of police forces — over the spread of weapons and violent crime.

The Dunblane tragedy received wide and sympathetic coverage in the United States, with considerable public interest in the technicalities of obtaining a British gun licence and the subsequent calls for a ban on all guns outside clubs and target practice.

The NRA, as it were, shot itself in the foot with a fundraising letter last year that described federal agents as "jack-booted government thugs". In the wake of the Oklahoma City bombing, the strident rhetoric was widely criticised as an incitement to anti-government militias. George Bush, the former President, cancelled his lifetime NRA membership, saying the broadside offended his sense of honour and concept of service to country.

Mr Bush typified the NRA's dilemma of being unable to satisfy all its factions. His primary interest was in supporting the rights of hunters. Like many other sportsmen, he was ill at ease with the NRA's zealous pursuit of the right to bear arms.

Dave Edmondson, a former NRA board member, said the association was not as flexible as most of its members would like. "If the NRA wants to stop losing members they've got a long way to go," he said.

NRA membership increased by nearly a million from 1990 to a peak of 3.5 million, a figure that has now tumbled to 3.1 million. Contributions to its political action committee have declined from $1.74 million (£1 million) to $1.36 million last year.

Tanya Metaksa, the NRA's legislative director, said the drop in membership was due in part to a $10 increase in annual dues to $35. The loss of political donations was attributed to a lack of motivation after Republicans took control of Congress.

As evidence of the NRA's continued power, she cited the passage of laws in seven states giving citizens the right to bear concealed arms. The states include Texas where one man has already been shot dead at traffic lights during an altercation over a clipped wing mirror. A grand jury cleared the gunman of murder.

Seeking happiness in a pill bottle

From Susan Bell in Paris

IF THE cliche about the excitable Gallic temperament no longer seems quite so accurate it may be due more to chemical assistance than any natural calming of the national psyche.

France is the world's leading consumer of tranquillisers and anti-depressants, a report published last week confirmed. Troubled by recessionary woes, millions of French are taking three times more tranquillisers, anti-depressants and sleeping tablets than their more stoic British and German cousins.

Even the Italians take only half the number of *calmants*.

Professor Edouard Zarifian, a leading French psychiatrist and the report's author, says a massive 11 per cent of adults regularly take tranquillisers and anti-depressants. Women over 60 and the unemployed are among the heaviest users.

More than 30 per cent of older women take tranquillisers regularly while an unemployed person is more than twice as likely to be prescribed anti-depressants as someone in full-time work.

Professor Zarifian blames a medical profession insufficiently trained in psychiatric problems and the pharmaceutical industry's aggressive marketing strategies.

‘Shock jocks’ trumpet American divisions

New York: Two radio disc jockeys have been forced to apologise after they entered a Colorado mosque and, wearing turbans, played the American national anthem on two cornets (Quentin Letts writes). They disturbed the faithful and asked: "What's the matter? Don't you believe in the national anthem?"

The escapade was broadcast live on the Denver radio station, KBPI, which employs the two "shock jocks". It has agreed to apologise to the mosque in newspaper and television advertisements, and will start an "awareness and sensitivity counselling programme" for its staff. It called for a "healing process".

The two, Roger Beaty, 39, and William Jones, 33, entered the Denver mosque after the much-publicised refusal of a Muslim basketball player, Mahmoud Abdul-Rauf, to stand for the US national anthem. The star player of the Denver Nuggets, who said the anthem symbolised "oppression and tyranny", worships at the mosque.

Abdul-Rauf: anthem "a symbol of oppression"

Montana militiaman surrenders to FBI

From Quentin Letts in New York

ANOTHER member of the Freemen anti-government militia was in police custody yesterday as more than 100 FBI agents maintained their week-long siege of the group's compound. They did so under the gaze of many militia members who had travelled from other parts of America to the plains of Montana to monitor the federal operation.

Richard Clark, 47, a farmer, surrendered to police 100 miles from the Freemen's Justus Township ranch. He was away from the compound when the siege began last Monday with the arrest of the group's ringleader, LeRoy Schweitzer, and a colleague, Daniel Petersen. The men were tricked out of the compound by an undercover FBI agent.

Mr Schweitzer, who appeared in military fatigues at a court in Billings, the nearest city, yesterday ended a five-day hunger strike after being moved to a prison hospital in Missouri. Mr Petersen, when he appeared in court, shouted: "You watch, folks. When it goes, it'll be worse than Waco."

The FBI wants to avert any repetition of the violence at a similar siege last year in Waco, Texas, but the Freemen are believed to have at least 11,000 rounds of ammunition and many guns.

The Freemen do not recognise the authority of the federal government, and allegedly ran a forgery and tax evasion school for like-minded rebels. For more than a year they have frightened residents in the nearby village of Jordan.

The FBI decided to take action a week after an exasperated Jordan villager, Tom Stanton, recruited a 25-strong posse armed with hunting rifles and disclosed plans to attack Justus Township. The FBI has arrest warrants for 13 of the Freemen, estimates of whose number vary from 20 to 60.

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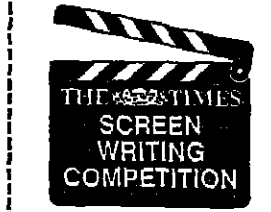
Send your entry to: *The Times* Screenwriting Competition 1996, PO Box 510, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire LU7 8QS. Closing date May 9, 1996. Full terms and conditions appeared in last week.



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Terror tactics give Kohl weapon to ensure euro keeps its 1999 deadline

Engrossing though the beef dispute with the rest of Europe may be for ministers and MPs who can think about little else except the next election, pay careful attention to a date in the European Union calendar that will have more impact than Friday's jamboree in Turin and will matter more than mad cows.

In just under a fortnight, Ken Clarke and his fellow finance ministers will attend a working weekend in the Palladian splendour of Verona. The agenda is packed with bland jargon that hides the meaning of what is going on: a "stability pact" for a single currency, the "ins and outs" debate and a new currency grid dubbed "son of ERM". The ministers will actually be mulling over plans for a redesign of the European economy. Their blueprints will affect the pay packet, mortgage and job security of every European far more directly than anything discussed in Turin.

The plans laid in Verona will work only if the "euro" becomes the single currency in some EU countries in 1999 — and real life has a habit of upsetting grand designs. The French and German political establishments admit no doubts, however: monetary union can and will happen.

Two days just spent at a "Königswinter" conference in the company of German opinion-makers gave me a fascinating glimpse of how Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, hopes to demolish those obstacles littering the road to monetary union. His strategy is neither pretty nor reassuring.

Among his fellow leaders, Herr Kohl works by what nuclear weapons experts would

THIS WEEK IN EUROPE

once have called a "balance of terror". Any Prime Minister who speaks against monetary union is given the cold shoulder. Save for John Major, this works. Swedes are probably at least as dubious about a single currency as Britons, but the Swedish Government keeps many of its doubts under wraps.

Herr Kohl has bigger problems with his own countrymen, who show no sign of wanting the euro in their wallets. Bankers and journalists may voice coded monetary-union warnings, but openly doubting the single currency is like questioning the final goal *(das Endziel)* of the Nazi Government, one senior German journalist told the conference. Dissenters, from the Bavarian anti-EMU campaigner Manfred Brunner to the Social Democrats who think the single currency will cost jobs, have been humiliated in elections.

Asked how Herr Kohl would persuade Germans to love the euro by 1998 — when Germany holds a general election — another journalist predicted: "Kohl will say to voters: OK, so monetary union may be a lousy idea, but it's just a question of whether Germany is in or out of Europe. With me, you're in. If you vote for the opposition, you may be out." In German politics, this sales pitch will be strong magic. The postwar German generation has been brought up to believe that every German is a stakeholder in the business of proving that Germany will never threaten Europe with war again.

This stark choice for the German voter will be accompanied by persuasion and pressure on France and Britain. France will be made to pay the price of its insistence that Germany give up the mark by agreeing to far closer political integration than it wishes. "There must be parallels in sacrificing sovereignty," Jürgen Stark, the German junior Finance Minister, said a few days ago. "Put it simply: we will only pay our police in euros when they are allowed to operate across borders in Europe."

For Herr Kohl, Britain is a lesser problem: his latest hope is to take business away from the City if Britain stays out, and wait for impoverished businessmen to become campaigners for the euro.

GEORGE BROCK

Yeltsin announces Chechen ceasefire and troop pullout

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT YELTSIN attempted to try to clear up the biggest political headache in his re-election campaign yesterday, when he announced a ceasefire and a partial troop withdrawal from Chechenia.

In a national television address Mr Yeltsin admitted that the 15-month war in Chechenia was "Russia's biggest problem".

Hinting at greater flexibility than Moscow has displayed in a year, he said he was prepared to talk to General Dzhokhar Dudayev, the rebel Chechen leader, but only through intermediaries. A Chechen official said the offer was not good enough.

General Vyacheslav Tikhomirov, Russia's top commander in Chechenia, said yesterday that it was impossible to stop all military operations in the breakaway region immediately.

Even as Mr Yeltsin was speaking, there were reports that Russia's helicopter gunships and fixed-wing aircraft were attacking the village of Goiskoye, a rebel stronghold 20 miles south of Grozny, the Chechen capital.

Chechenia has become a vital election issue for Mr Yeltsin as he struggles to be re-elected for a second term as President on June 16. A recent poll in the *Segodnya* newspaper identified the war as the most important issue for voters.

The new plan, which has been heralded many times and frequently delayed, is aimed at scaling down the war. That should at least take it off Russian television screens during the election campaign.

Most army units will be pulled out and Interior Ministry troops and local police loyal to the Moscow-installed Chechen Government will take on the bulk of their work. Local elections will be held within the next few months and a new treaty will be signed giving Chechenia a high level of autonomy within the Russian Federation.

However, a leading rebel representative dismissed the speech as pre-election window-dressing. In Istanbul, Usman Imayev, who led the Chechen negotiating team at talks last summer, said the main issue — of negotiations between General Dudayev and the Russian authorities on the status of Chechenia — remained unresolved.

Moscow has branded General Dudayev a criminal and put out a warrant for his arrest. The general has said he is prepared to continue the war with Russia "for 50 years" and insists on nothing less than full independence for Chechenia.

"The minimum we ask is a meeting with Yeltsin or [Viktor] Chernomyrdin," said Mr Imayev, referring to the Russian Prime Minister. "The maximum is negotiations under the aegis of the United Nations. The Russian Federation cannot solve this on its own."

In the past few weeks, Russian forces have conducted a brutal offensive that was clearly designed to secure a maximum military advantage before the peace plan was unveiled. Several southern and western villages were shelled and bombed, causing heavy civilian casualties. At the same time, other villages were coerced into signing "peace agreements".

Mr Yeltsin did not say all hostilities would stop and left the ceasefire open to a wide margin of interpretation.

"Of course we will not tolerate terrorist actions. Responses to them will be adequate. The security of Russian citizens must be strictly maintained," he said.

Leading article, page 17

President Yeltsin prepares for the televised ceasefire announcement yesterday

Minsk march backs treaty

Minsk: Tens of thousands of demonstrators, mostly Communists, marched in Minsk, the capital of Belorussia, yesterday in support of President Lukashenko's plan, announced last week, to negotiate a treaty forging a stronger union between the republic and Russia. Hundreds of students held a counter-demonstration denouncing the treaty. A week earlier, 15,000 people held a similar march. *(AP)*

Giscard d'Estaing bows out to leave Léotard in charge

FROM SUSAN BELL IN PARIS

THE FORMER French President, Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, saw his long-cherished hope of a triumphal return to the Elysée Palace finally extinguished yesterday as he reluctantly relinquished control over the Union pour la Démocratie Française, the liberal centre-right alliance he created in 1978, to François Léotard, the former Defence Minister.

The race to succeed M Giscard d'Estaing as UDF president was won easily by M Léotard, leader of the Parti Républicain which forms the majority of the UDF alliance. Heavily tipped to win, he carried 57 per cent of the secret ballot yesterday in Lyons. He was supported by François Bayrou, the Education Minister and leader of the UDF's second largest party, the Force Démocrate.

His main contender for the leadership was Alain Madelin, 50, the former Finance Minister and deputy leader of the Parti Républicain, whose ambitions to succeed Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister, are widely recognised.

In contrast with most UDF colleagues, who supported Edouard Balladur, M Madelin campaigned actively for Jacques Chirac during last year's presidential elections. He was rewarded with a Cabinet post as Finance Minister but was sacked last summer by M Juppé after speaking out about welfare cuts for public-sector workers.

M Giscard d'Estaing had already said he would not seek re-election. His announcement, during his speech yesterday, that his vote would go to M Madelin was greeted by boos and whistles from M Léotard's supporters, but came as no surprise. M Giscard d'Estaing has long resented M Léotard for an earlier attempt to oust him.

The UDF, which unites five parties, faces problems of division and, in a farewell letter, the former French President took a pessimistic view of the survival of the alliance he founded 18 years ago. "If the UDF does not quickly take a step towards unity, I do not predict much of a future," he wrote to his party.

M Léotard said yesterday that his first objective as president would be one of reconciliation. On learning of his defeat, M Madelin declared he would continue his "campaign for political revival at the heart of the UDF".

M Léotard, who campaigned under the theme of a new "team spirit", faces a major challenge to unite the alliance's disparate elements in time for 1998's legislative elections. He is expected to introduce much-needed reforms in party organisation, including a more democratic election process. "It is up to us, in a spirit of harmony and reconciliation to ensure that the UDF triumphs in 1998," he told delegates yesterday.

Bosnian 'massacre site' to be examined

BY EVE-ANN PRENTICE

WAR crimes investigators are due to start examining the notorious suspected mass grave sites around Srebrenica in eastern Bosnia this week.

However, the investigators from the United Nations war crimes tribunal in The Hague may not begin digging for the suspected Muslim victims of alleged Serb atrocities for months, until after the Nato-led Implementation Force has left at the end of the year.

Washington is worried that the opening of the suspected grave sites would bring vehement new demands for the capture of indicted war crimes suspects, such as the Bosnian Serb political and military leaders, Radovan Karadzic and General Ratko Mladic. Up to 8,000 Muslim men are believed to have been murdered by separatist Serbs in July 1995 when they captured Srebrenica.

William Perry, the US Defence Secretary, has won a pledge from the Croatian Government to hand over Tihomir Blaskic, a Bosnian Croat general, to the war crimes tribunal today, for alleged massacres of Muslim civilians. Serbia has handed over two Serb soldiers, Drazen Erdemovic and Radoslav Kremenovic, identified as witnesses to atrocities in Srebrenica.

Tito's widow 'held prisoner' in Serbia

BY DESSA TREVISAN AND EVE-ANN PRENTICE

JOVANKA BROZ, the widow of Marshal Tito — the architect of postwar Yugoslavia — claims she is being kept a virtual prisoner by Serbia and her life under guard in Belgrade, the capital, is a misery.

"I am very hurt by the way they have treated me. I live alone and am surrounded only by people whose duty it is to keep an eye on me," she says in an interview with a Belgrade weekly. "I have neither a passport nor any other document. Even when I visit my relatives or few friends, I have to inform the guards."

Jovanka married Tito in 1952 when she was 28 years old and he 60. They met when she fought for the Partisans during the Second World War. Days after his death in 1980, she was forced to leave Tito's residence, the White Palace. She has since lived in a house in the luxurious Belgrade suburb of Dedinje.

Jovanka was ostracised by Tito for the last three years of his life when he was said to have taken two masseuses as mistresses. She says: "Tito was everything to me. I played my whole life on just one card — that I am the wife of Marshal Tito."

As Tito became frailer in the late 1970s, the authorities feared she would try to gain political influence. When he began his liaison with the masseuses and to live in Zagreb, the Croatian capital, she became unwelcome. In the interview, she describes how she was kept away from his deathbed. "One day, former President Lazar Kolisevski came to me and said Tito was going into hospital and would have his leg amputated. It was the [Communist] Party Central Committee that made decisions, not the family. I was informed about Tito's death by one of the members of the collective presidency."

Tito's two sons by previous marriages were allowed to be with him in his dying days.

Although Tito lived lavishly, his personal wealth was pitifully small and he never owned any property or held foreign bank accounts.

Jovanka Broz: hurt by her treatment

Baby kept terrorist out of prison

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

AMID a growing uproar over lax Italian prison conditions, senior Rome judges yesterday sought to justify allowing a convicted Red Brigades terrorist to have a child and spend nearly two years at liberty.

Cecilia Massara, 42, was rearrested at the weekend to serve the rest of her life sentence. Her son, now a year old, will live in her cell until he is three "because there is no one else to look after him", according to Alessandro Marara, head of the Rome parole board.

Provisions for parole and good conduct leave have been under close scrutiny since last month's escape of Majed Yousef Molqi, a Palestinian convicted of the 1985 murder of a disabled Jewish passenger on the hijacked *Achille Lauro* cruise ship. Molqi was rearrested in Spain after three weeks on the run. Two other Palestinian terrorists who have absconded from Italian jails are at large, causing tension between Italy and other Western countries.

Massara, whose Red Brigades nickname was Carla, was arrested in 1984. She had played a leading part in attacks including the bombing of the Rome offices of the Christian Democrats, the kneecapping of a suspected informer, the murder of a judge, and the attempted robbery of an armoured security van carrying bank funds. The robbery ended in a shoot-out with police during which Massara was wounded and arrested. After a four-year investigation, she was given a life sentence in 1988.

She married a fellow Red Brigades terrorist, Giuseppe Scirocco, in jail, and became pregnant in May 1994.

Although her sentence had been confirmed the previous year, the authorities set her free because women may not be jailed if they are pregnant, or for six months after giving birth, or for a further six months if the child has no other carer.

Mad Cow Disease

DEAD-END HOST?

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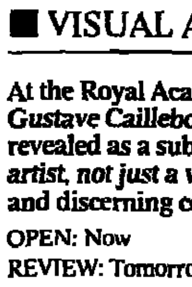
ARTS
THE WEEK
AHEAD



■ VISUAL ART

At the Royal Academy, Gustave Caillebotte is revealed as a substantial artist, not just a wealthy and discerning collector

OPEN: Now
REVIEW: Tomorrow

■ OPERA

Isabelle Vernet takes the title role in Scottish Opera's staging of Gluck's great reforming work, *Alceste*

OPENS: Tuesday
REVIEW: Thursday

■ THEATRE

Dominic Dromgoole bids farewell to the Bush with his production of *Clocks and Whistles*

OPENS: Tuesday
REVIEW: Thursday

■ CABARET

Denny Laine, once of the Moody Blues and Paul McCartney's Wings, brings his hits to the Café Royal

GIG: Wednesday
REVIEW: Friday

The organisers of some of Britain's most exciting art events tell **Simon Tait** about their latest plan

Tailors of the unexpected

DENZIL MCNEELANCE

Artangel got Rachel Whiteread's controversial House off the ground. Tonight the company will reveal what it can about its new project

The duo behind some of the most controversial and successful visual art of the past few years will tonight unveil their latest project — and, as usual, say very little about it.

Artangel — run by James Lingwood and Michael Morris — first came to prominence in 1993. The year before, the two men had called a press conference at the Groucho Club to announce that they were commissioning a work by the sculptor Rachel Whiteread. "We got the press there, packed them in this tiny room, said we were doing something with Rachel — and nothing else," Lingwood says. "Up to the day of the unveiling we tried to let nobody know at all what was going on, because if we'd have said she was going to do a cast of a whole house everyone would have had an expectation of what it was going to look like and it would have been compared with those expectations."

When Whiteread's *House* was finally revealed, it, well, brought the house down. The sculpture was almost literally here today and gone tomorrow. It was loathed and lauded, brought derision and delight. It was the first "produced" piece of event sculpture. Whiteread won the Turner Prize, and Artangel won mainstream attention — if not acceptance.

Before joining Artangel the two were both at the ICA — Lingwood as curator of objects and Morris as director of theatre. Under them, Artangel's projects expanded. They were to be shaped by their locations alone, constructed in any medium or any combination of media.

First came Michael Clark's dance piece *Mmm* . . . which created a blur of action in the King's Cross Warehouse, then Hans Peter Kuhn's *Five Floors*, devised to bring noise to a painfully silent office block. Last year saw Tatsuo Miyajima's Japan Festival Award-winning *Running Time* in the Queen's House in Greenwich, which was plunged into total blackness for a neon representation of time. Then came *For HG*, the installation by Kuhn and Robert Wilson at Clink Street Vaults, a critical success that was also seen by 20,000 people.

Artangel's latest commission will be announced tonight in an empty, almost derelict, Georgian building in St James's Square, the heart of London's clubland. There, the press will meet the Mexican sculptor Gabriel Orozco. Work, theoretically, begins tomorrow.

"What he'll do we've no idea," Morris says happily. "Gabriel will start in one building and in the next two or three months will move the project from place to place. He hasn't decided which ones yet, but we've looked at a lot. He wanted it to be in London as the heart of a certain kind of culture."

The prospect might be of the members of Boodles being greeted by "a disarming articulation of emptiness", as Orozco's New York show last year was described by a critic, or the lunchers at the RAC by a classic four-door Citroën with the middle third removed to create a two-seater, as Orozco did in Paris in 1994.

This will be his first time working in Britain, and he has, at least, a theme. "He's very interested in the whole English obsession with etiquette and games and clubs," Morris says, "and the rules and codes which are often quite concealed but of enormous importance in the way we still live. It'll be something to do with that."

Lord Gowrie, the chairman of the Arts Council, will also be on hand tonight, to announce that this will be the first project in a long-term collaboration to create a fund for contemporary art. With its sponsorship partners Beck's, the brewer, Artangel has created a four-year programme which will produce one piece a year until the millennium.

Beck's has committed £125,000 to the programme, and another £125,000 will come from Artangel's panel of patrons, known as the Company of Angels. This is a group of up to 100 people a year who each contribute £300. The Angels range from the mega-rich to the fairly poor and include the rock musician Dave Stewart, the architect Piers Gough, the property tycoon Harry Handelsman, the restaurateur Jeremy King and the art dealers Jay Jopling and Anthony D'Offay.

"Half of them are people who would want to give more if we let them, the other half will never be patrons of art again but just want to be part of a piece of work," Morris says. "With a standard £300 each nobody is more of a patron than anyone else."

The new sponsorship arrangement puts Artangel's site-specific productions — the company's word for them — on as near a firm financial footing as Morris and Lingwood dare go without making the art too safe. It is a new deal for contemporary commissioning, entailing the firm commitment to funding before the work starts which every artist needs, but seldom gets.

"Beck's is prepared to invest in the unknown and unfamiliar, whereas every other sponsor wants to invest in the known and the familiar," Morris says. "Nobody else would have wanted to underpin Rachel Whiteread's *House*, but Beck's did and it got the dividends."

What it means is that the risk is shared with the sponsors, who effectively become co-commissioners and an intrinsic part of the project, instead of merely the bankers. "Trying to summarise our way of thinking about it, we feel there's a very volatile chemistry to this commissioning process," Lingwood says. "We know some of the things we are contributing to the mixture, but we don't try to predict what the end result will be, so we know that the excitement is not diminished for us or for the audience."

Or, from today, for the distinguished clubmen of St James's.

CLASSICAL CONCERTS

Cool, calm and connected

BBC SO / Davis
Festival Hall

COMPARED with recent blockbuster events, Tuesday night's BBC Symphony Orchestra concert seemed a very temperate affair: a characteristically delicate score from the late Toru Takemitsu, introspective Mozart and tranquil Vaughan Williams.

In fact it is as dangerous to categorise the latter's *Pastoral* Symphony as innocently idyllic as it is to depict Mozart's last piano concerto (K595 in B flat) as "valedictory". There is rather more to the *Pastoral* than green fields. Written in the shadow of the First World War, it articulates a restrained, but palpable, response to the recent horror.

Andrew Davis's account hinted unmistakably at underlying tensions in a first movement that was kept restlessly on the move. Those tensions are brought to the surface in the gentle tonal clashes at the start of the second movement, and the offstage trumpet solo had an aptly elegiac air. The distant soprano solo that opens the finale (Patricia Rozario) floated down from the top of the auditorium, returning later to frame the composer's passionate plea on behalf of suffering humanity.

Mozart's K595 may not be quite the swansong it was once regarded but there is no denying its autumnal mood. Lars Vogt's undemonstrative reading might have shown a touch more affection in its shaping of phrases but it served well enough and caught the prevalent wistful quality successfully.

Takemitsu's *Toward the Sea II* is a suite of three pieces originally written for alto flute and guitar, transcribed for alto flute, harp and strings. With its gently Impressionist harmonies inevitably invoking Debussy, it is one of Takemitsu's most listener-friendly scores, establishing an equilibrium between exotic sensibility and cool, poised serenity. Patrick Gallois and Fabrice Pierre were the atmospheric flautist and harpist, and Gallois contributed an unscheduled extra item: an Aria that was Takemitsu's last completed work. Sensuous harmonies this time were implied rather than stated on the unaccompanied flute. It was a touching tribute to a lamented master.

BARRY MILLINGTON

Handel with care

King's Consort
Queen Elizabeth Hall

THERE is no doubt that Handel's *Joseph and his Brethren* has been unjustly neglected; how much this is due to the repudiation of it by the Handel scholar Winton Dean is not clear. It is true that it stands in the shadow of *Semele*, its partner-oratorio from 1744, but it is nevertheless a work obviously written by a composer at the height of his powers.

Initially, Dean's reservations would seem to be confirmed. Part I is pleasant enough and abounds in choice items such as Joseph's prison lament and a charming flute-accompanied duet with his bride-to-be Asenath, but it is hardly gripping.

However, from the introduction of Joseph's brother Simeon in the second prison scene in Part II, the temperature rises from his first dramatic accompanied recitative to the spine-tingling suspensions in the aria in which he admits his guilt.

The performance went up a notch from precisely the same point, not least because John Mark Ainsley was cast as Simeon. Ainsley is an instinctive Handelian, and his honeyed tones and perfectly judged and communicated interpretation made his contribution the high point of the evening.

There was fine singing, too, from Yvonne Kenny as Asenath and the other members of the King's Consort team: James Bowman, Michael George, Catherine Denley and the treble, Connor Burrowes, who sang with admirable poise and expressivity. But Bowman seemed vocally tired, perhaps because the piece had just been recorded for Hyperion, and one of his arias was cut.

It is unusual these days for a concert to be performed after the recording sessions, and the benefits were apparent in the playing of the King's Consort (more polished than I have heard for a while) and the confident singing of the choir of New College, Oxford.

Overall, it lacked a sense of dramatic pacing, and it was a big mistake to break for the interval after Simeon's soliloquy when Handel had just got into his stride.

TESS KNIGHTON

CLASSICAL CHOICE

A guide to the best available recordings, presented in conjunction with Radio 3

BRUCKNER'S FIFTH SYMPHONY
Reviewed by Jonathan Swain

What is a good Bruckner acoustic? In the case of the Fifth Symphony it has to be one that will allow depth and brilliance to a massive organ-like blaze of brass, and one which does not confuse the intricacy of this "contrapuntal masterpiece" (the composer's description). A tall order.

Dohnányi and the Cleveland Orchestra (on Decca) tamed the Symphony to fit it into a small acoustic; DG played tricks with both the tone of the Vienna Philharmonic and the hall acoustics in its Abbado recording, to produce something bright, clear and curiously unspecific. Both Chailly (Decca) and Haitink in his first recording for Philips, have the perfect Bruckner hall (and orchestra) in the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, but the former's recording sounds, in parts, like a run-through, and although Haitink's remains a good buy as part of a complete Bruckner cycle at budget price, there are more imaginative options. Haitink's remake with the Vienna Philharmonic (Philips) brings, as before, the benefits of steady, integrated tempos, but is rather dour.

The final choice rests with two Austrians: Welser-Möst for invigorating drive and attack with the London Philharmonic (EMI), and **Karajan**. Like Haitink, he has the courage of Bruckner's convictions, but also the wisdom to put them effectively into practice, and the great **Berlin Philharmonic** is on indomitable form. However, Karajan's Berlin Fifth is only available as part of a complete cycle (DG 429 648-2, 9 CDs, £75).

● *To order the recommended recording, with free delivery, please send a cheque payable to The Times CD Mail to 29 Pall Mall Deposit, Barlby Road, London W10 6BL or freephone 0500 418419; e-mail: bid@mail.bogo.co.uk*

● *Next Saturday on Radio 3 (9am): Mozart's Symphony No 29*

As tears go by

POP

Marianne Faithfull
Jazz Café, NW1

WHAT better way for the singer who has lived a little to reflect on that experience than via the words of someone who lived a lot? These days, any performer who has ever woken up on Saturday morning unable to remember the latter half of Friday night feels him or herself empowered to wring the last ounce of misery and melodrama from the lurid canon of Jacques Brel or Bertolt Brecht and Kurt Weill. Indeed, those of a certain age rush to the edge of excess just so they can halt in the nick of time, record a thematic album, and then confidently await the critical and sales renaissance that will inevitably follow.

But if anyone is entitled to make a claim to the works of Brecht and Weill, it is Marianne Faithfull. Never the most technically blessed of singers, she can now offer a hard-won sense of character in compensation for her undisguisable lack of range.

On Wednesday, in the second of two Camden performances, she proved the potency of her own iconography by blurring distinctions between herself and the narrators she portrayed through heavily self-referential between-song asides. Prowling the small stage like a black-garbed Joycean vamp, she pursued a mainly chronological route through the Weimar Republic — with occasional detours in homage to other writers (Harry Nilsson's *Don't Forget Me*, Noël Coward's *20th Century Blues*). Although not, perhaps, the most authoritative guide to this well-trodden terrain, she still achieved fresh insights.

Accompanied only by the keyboard player Paul Truber, and relying largely on English translations by Frank McGuiness, Faithfull did not shy away from material now so familiar as to be almost unsingable (*Falling in Love Again*, *Mack the Knife*), but showed particular confidence on the less obviously picaresque (*Boulevard of Broken Dreams*, a brave *Complainte de la Seine*).

But it was her skill as a raconteuse only too well aware of her own mythology that gave the evening a special piquancy. While lamenting her limited skills as an actress, she was interrupted by a cry of "What about *Girl on a Motorcycle*?" "Yes," she replied, with a proud toss of her head, "I remember that. Vaguely."

ALAN JACKSON

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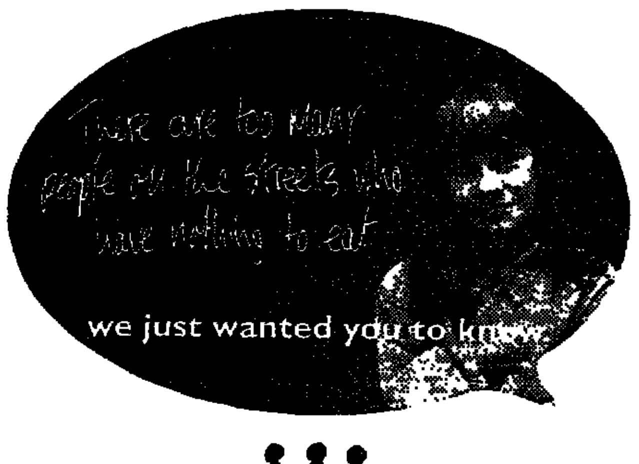

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■ MUSIC

Steven Isserlis plays Elgar's Cello Concerto in the Albert Hall with Vernon Handley and the Royal Philharmonic

CONCERT: Thursday
REVIEW: Saturday

■ POP

Back like a bat out of hell, Meat Loaf brings his beefy broth of bombast and ballads to Manchester

GIG: Wednesday
REVIEW: Friday

■ FILM

Kevin Spacey stars in the new American satire about Hollywood, *Swimming With Sharks*

OPENS: Friday
REVIEW: Thursday

■ BOOKS

Characters are caught in the grip of erotic obsession in Doris Lessing's new novel, *Love, Again*

IN THE SHOPS: Now
REVIEW: Thursday

ARTS
TUESDAY TO FRIDAY
IN SECTION 2

THEATRE: The call of the wild in W6; and women in thrall to the land

The vixen and the Victorian

Lady into Fox
Lyric Studio, W6

Who is Silvia, what is she? So asked Shakespeare in *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*, and answered his own question in high romantic fashion, by proclaiming her holy, wise, kind and full of heaven-given grace. She was, in short, rather different from the Silvia of David Garnett's short story, *Lady into Fox*, who begins by epitomising traditional womanliness and ends up a sleek red animal, living dangerously with her cubs and mate in an Oxfordshire wood.

Garnett wrote his fantasy in 1922, a time when the British were busily questioning Victorian values and, if they dared, throwing off Victorian constraints. It is no accident that he set it 40-odd years earlier and in the sort of house where tasselled drapery hides the table legs. But there are dark truths in the piece that transcend 1880, 1922 and, for that matter, 1996: which is doubtless why Neil Bartlett and Nicolas Bloomfield have transformed it into the fascinating post-Aesopian oratorio now passing through W6.

Silvia Tebrick's change of species happens in a twinkling, and her husband at first cannot accept it. He keeps enjoining decorum on a wife who snaps at him, rips off her clothes, tears a pet rabbit into ribbons and scratches and howls so piteously at the door that he ends up agreeing to let her out. Happiness for her means whelping in the wild, even at the risk of being torn apart by foxhounds. Thus do Garnett and his adapters suggest that beneath the lady is a woman and beneath the woman is a creature whose every instinct rebels against the class-bound, male-run, convention-ridden civilisation into which history has plunged her. She might be Lady Chatterley with four legs and a tail.

Two members of Bartlett's Gloria Company, Dale Rapley and Louise Gold, part-speak, part-sing all this in front of heavy black-brown furniture and to the accompaniment of a piano. I cannot pretend that the dissonant clunks and sudden swoops and squiggles of Bloomfield's score are hugely to my taste, but they undeniably add weirdness to already unsettling proceedings. Moreover, Gold does not let us miss the contrast between Silvia's engulfing gowns and her increasingly feral mannerisms: a sniff and a snarl here, a twitch of the head and glint in the eyes there.

The evening is so marvellously odd and refreshingly original that it seems ungrateful to grumble, but here goes. The main limitation is that Tebrick's own emotional journey, carefully chronicled in the original story, is neglected here. His wife is a trapped woman who rediscovers nature and innocence; he is, or should be, a respectable, protective husband who wants to escape his repressions, but cannot fully do so, and turns into a half-mad mixture of man and animal, reason and instinct.

Rapley has some of the character's unacknowledged sensuality but little of his surface priggishness, and does not physically deteriorate as the fable dictates he should.

Could he, Bartlett and director Leah Hausman have a rethink before the piece goes on to East Anglia, Leicester, Bristol and Brighton? It would be well worth the effort.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

DONALD COOPER

Twentieth-century fox: Louise Gold and Dale Rapley in Neil Bartlett's and Nicolas Bloomfield's adaptation of David Garnett's *Lady into Fox*

The daughters of toil

Bondagers
Donmar Warehouse

The title may suggest that what we have here is the latest report on harness and restraints from the S&M front, and the suspicion would seem confirmed on learning that the director is Ian Brown, the man who directed the first production of *Trainspotting* and two of Brad Fraser's coldly passionate portraits of urban Canada. An evening of instruction in contemporary city horror looks imminent.

Nothing of the sort. Sue Glover's fine and moving play is set on a remote Borders farm in the middle of the last century. We learn that the custom of the time was for a farmer to hire a male worker on condition that he brought a female worker with him. If not his wife or daughter, then a woman whom he could persuade to join his family in their cottage. Her job was to slave in the fields from January to December, hoeing, sowing, weeding, reaping, stooking, lifting neeps and tatties, and a score of other tasks.

Glover's play follows the fortunes and griefs of a group of such women from one Hiring Day to the next. In their grey skirts and coal-scuttle bonnets, they jab their hoes slowly across the clay field, singing some ancient chant. The light changes and they are indoors gossiping. Many of the men have taken a passage to Saskatchewan and a life offering better rewards and independence. One of the women went with her husband as far as Greenock but at the last moment could not bring herself to leave her homeland. "These fields are my calf-ground," she explains.

The dialogue is rich in vivid images of this quality, images typically drawn from the natural world, for this is a community unswervingly ruled by the march of the seasons and the demands of the land. Brown's achievement, and of course Glover's too, is to have made this material so utterly engrossing. We become involved in the women's erotic longings, feel their sense that they are little more than ghosts in the landscape. The movements of their toil become rhythmic patterns; the lighting (by Paule Constable) draws us through the year.

This production was seen at the Traverse during last year's Edinburgh Festival and the company has been reassembled for a short tour, though it stays at the Donmar only until April 6. The six women interact with wonderful care and precision, playing troubled mothers (Carol Anne Crawford, Ann-Louise Ross), eager girls (Julie Duncanson, Hilary MacLean), the lady (Rosaleen Pelan) and the simple visionary (Kathryn Howden).

All give performances of total conviction, recreating for us a vanished world at a point where change was in the air but had yet to ease their life on the ground.

JEREMY KINGSTON

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

LONDON

CLARKE PETERS: The multi-talented creator of the effervescent *Five Guys Named Moe* and the more recent tribute to Nat King Cole, *Unforgettable*, turns his hand to cabaret. His season here will have a distinct contemporary mixture, with a little Latin element and a bit of Bacharach thrown in.
Pizza on the Park, Knightsbridge, SW1 (0171-235 5550/5273). Tonight-Apr 13, 9.15 and 11.15pm.

THE LAST ROMANTICS: Opening night for Maggie Steed, Mark Kingston and Robert Langdon Lloyd in an eloquent Nigel Williams play, first seen on television: about F R Leavis and two Qs — his wife Queenie and his former mentor, Quiller Couch. Matthew Francis directs.
Greenwich, Crooms Hill, SE10 (0181-858 7755). Tonight, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mat Sat, 2.30pm. Until May 4

TOLSTOY. F. Murray Abraham and Gemma Jones go on tour in a roller-coaster portrayal of the passionate, tormented marriage of Leo and Sonya Tolstoy. Jack Hofsiss directs the much-awaited new play from James Goldman, of *Lion in Winter* and *Follies* fame. In the West End from the end of the month.
Richmond, The Green, Richmond (0181-940 0088). Tonight-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Wed and Sat, 2.30pm

ELSEWHERE

EXETER: Say what you will about his music, but **Meat Loaf** is an old school trouper of the first order and still a hell of a singer. He is here to unveil a typically massive new stage production which is destined to be trundled around the world for the rest of this year. The latest single (what a coincidence!) is in the shops from Apr 15.
Westpoint Arena, (01392 446000). Tonight, then in **Manchester**, Nynex (0161-930 8000). Wed; **Sheffield**, Arena (0114-256 5656). Apr 7 and 23. On tour through April

SWANSEA: Kate O'Mara heads the cast in Daphne du Maurier's period costume drama, **My Cousin Rachel**. Her husband is dead, she goes missing in Italy, and then returns to England to bewitch her dear departed's cousin. Is Rachel a murderer or a much-maligned woman? Adapted by Diana Morgan, now on national tour.
Grand, Singleton Street (01792-475 715). Tonight-Fri, 7.30pm; Sat, 8pm

GLASGOW. Find out for yourself just why the joint's always jumpin' in Clarke Peters's irresistible — and highly successful — tribute to Louis Jordan, **Five Guys Named Moe.**
King's, Bath Street (0141-227 5511). Tonight-Thurs, 7.30pm, Fri and Sat, 6pm and 8.45pm

NOTTINGHAM. Last week of performances for Eleanor Bron, playing one of the troubled middle-agers in **A Delicate Balance**, Edward Albee's absorbing, darkly humorous play about neighbourliness. Tom Cairns directs and designs an excellent production.
Playhouse, Wellington Circus (0115-941 9419). Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm

LONDON GALLERIES

Barbican: Diaghilev, Creator of the Ballets Russes (0171-638 4141) **British Museum**: Sir William Hamilton collection (0171-636 1555) **Hayward**: Spellbound: Art and Film (071-928 3144) **National Gallery**: Old Master paintings from Doria Pamphilj Gallery (0171-747 2885) **National Portrait Gallery**: Livingstone and the Victorian Encounter with Africa (0171-306 0055) . **Royal Academy**: Frederic Leighton (0171-439 7438) **Serpentine**: Jean-Michel Basquiat (0171-723 9072) **Tate**: Cézanne. Still But Not Silent: still lifes (0171-887 8000) . **V & A**: The Leighton Frescoes (0171-938 8500)

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ *House full, returns only*
◪ *Some seats available*
☐ *Seats at all prices*

☐ **A WEEK'S WORTH**: A week of solo performances by the marvellous Irene Worth, 80 this year. Three separate programmes: *A Portrait of Edith Wharton*, *Prosper Mérimée's Gypsies* and *The Letters of Sand and Flaubert* (with Peter Eyre)
Almeida, Almeida Street, N1 (0171-359 4404). Wharton: Apr 1, 3, 6: 8pm. Gypsies: Apr 2, 4: 8pm. Sand: Apr 5, 8pm; Apr 6, 4pm.

☐ **CHAPTER TWO**: Tom Conti and Sharon Gless play unattached New Yorkers whirling towards each other in Neil Simon's comedy. Not his best.
Gielgud, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5065). Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.15pm; mats Thurs 3pm, Sat 5pm

☐ **HARRY AND ME**: Sheila Hancock, Ron Cook, Dudley Sutton in new Nigel Williams play, a dark comedy recording the death throes of an appalling chat show. James Macdonald directs.
Royal Court, Sloane Square, SW1 (0171-730 1745). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Apr 18, 3pm and Sat, 3.30pm.

☐ **AN IDEAL HUSBAND**: Triumphant return for Peter Hall's production of Wilde's drama of political sleaze and scandal. The star cast includes Martin Shaw, Anna Carteret, Pennie Downie.
Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (0171-930 8800). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm

☐ **MARY STUART**: Superb playing by Anna Massey as Schiller's Virgin Queen; French actress Isabelle Huppert less at ease with the language as her doomed rival. Howard Davies directs.
National (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252). Tonight-Wed, 7.30pm, mat Wed, 2.15pm. In rep.

☐ **MISS JULIE**: Polly Teale (soon to co-direct the National's *War and Peace*) directs Susan Lynch and John Hannah in Strindberg's tale of erotic passion and doom.
Young Vic, The Cut, SE1 (0171-928 6363). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Sat 3.30pm

☐ **PASSION**: An unconvincing musical from Sondheim, but Maria Friedman remarkably good as a voracious man-hunter who gets her man. Jeremy Sams directs, with Michael Ball and Helen Hobson.
Queen's, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5590). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm

■ **SKYLIGHT**: Outstanding playing by Michael Gambon and Lia Williams in David Hare's dramatisation of society's conflicts in the form of a prickly reunion between two lovers.
Wyndham's, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat 3pm.

◪ **TAP DOGS**: Dein Perry's sextet of dancers in working-boots returns to its building-site set. High energy stuff.
Lyric, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5045). Mon-Thurs, 8pm; Fri and Sat, 6pm and 8.45pm.

◪ **TOMMY**: Hugely impressive staging of the traumatised child's apotheosis to pinball wizard. Loads of electronic tricks disguise the improbability.
Shaftesbury, Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (0171-379 5399). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed and Sat, 3pm

☐ **THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS**: Jeremy Sinden plays the ebullient Toad in the now annual return of the National Theatre production. Still delightful.
Old Vic, Waterloo Road, SE1 (0171-928 6655). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Wed, Sat, 2.30pm

LONG RUNNERS

☐ **Blood Brothers**: Phoenix (0171-867 1044) ◪ **Cats**: New London (0171-405 0072) ☐ **Communicating Doors**: Savoy (0171-836 8888) ☐ **Funny Money**: Playhouse (0171-839 4401) ◪ **Jolson**: Victoria Palace (0171-834 1317) ◪ **Les Misérables**: Palace (0171-434 0909) ◪ **Starlight Express**: Apollo Victoria (0171-828 8665) ☐ **The Woman in Black**: Fortune (0171-836 2238)

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

◆ **BALTO** (U): Bland animated film about the canine hero of a 1925 diphtheria epidemic in Alaska. Director, Simon Wells.
MGM Trocadero (0171-434 0031) **Plaza** (0171-437 1234) **UCI Whiteleys** (0171-792 3332) **Warner** (0171-437 4343)

◆ **CUTTHROAT ISLAND** (PG): Redundant pirate movie, with two miscast stars (Geena Davis, Matthew Modine). Director, Renny Harlin.
MGMs: Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Trocadero** (0171-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** (0171-792 3332) **Warner** (0171-437 4343)

DEAD MAN WALKING (15): Oscar winner Susan Sarandon visits Sean Penn on Death Row. Powerful, carefully balanced drama about capital punishment. Director, Tim Robbins.
Gate (0171-727 4043) **MGMs: Baker Street** (0171-935 9772) **Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Shaftesbury Avenue** (0171-836 6279) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Phoenix** (0181-883 2233) **Renoir** (0171-837 8402) **Richmond** (0181-332 0030) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Green** (0171-226 3520) **UCI Whiteleys** (0171-792 3332) **Warner** (0171-437 4343)

◆ **DUNSTON CHECKS IN** (PG): Orang-utan causes havoc in a five-star hotel. Perky family comedy with Jason Alexander, Rupert Everett and Faye Dunaway. Director, Ken Kwapis.
Odeons: Kensington (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **West End** (01426 915574) **UCI Whiteleys** (0171-792 3332)

◆ **LAWNMOWER MAN 2: BEYOND CYBERSPACE** (12): Patrick Bergin and kids battle Matt Frewer in the land of virtual reality. Moderate high-tech fantasy, directed by Farhad Mann.
Odeon West End (01426 915574)

◆ **SGT. BILKO** (PG): Crass spin-off from Phil Silvers television comedy classic, with Steve Martin as the conniving army sergeant. With Dan Aykroyd. Director, Jonathan Lynn.
Empire (0171-437 1234) **MGMs: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** (0171-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** (0171-792 3332)

CURRENT

◆ **BRAVEHEART** (15): Mel Gibson directs and stars in his Oscar-laden blood-thirsty epic about the 13th century Scottish rebel William Wallace.
Odeon West End (01426 915574)

◆ **GET SHORTY** (15): John Travolta's loanshark takes on the movie business. Entertaining but trivial comedy from Elmore Leonard's novel. Director, Barry Sonnenfeld. With Danny De Vito, Gene Hackman, Renee Russo, Delroy Lindo.
Empire (0171-437 1234) **MGMs: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** (0171-434 0031) **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **UCI Whiteleys** (0171-792 3332)

LEAVING LAS VEGAS (18): Nicolas Cage drinks himself to death. Striking [illegible] drama from director Mike Figgis. With Elisabeth Shue.
MGMs: Haymarket (0171-839 1527) **Swiss Centre** (0171-439 4470) **Odeon Mezzanine** (01426 915683) **Warner** (0171-437 4343)

◆ **SENSE AND SENSIBILITY** (U): Emma Thompson's radiant adaptation of Jane Austen's early novel, with Thompson and Kate Winslet as sisters with different approaches to romance.
Barbican (0171-638 8891) **Chelsea** (0171-351 3742) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Curzons: Mayfair** (0171-369 1720) **West End** (0171-369 1722) **Notting Hill Coronet** (0171-727 6705) **Odeon Kensington** (01426 914666) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Hill** (0171-435 3366)

◆ **TOY STORY** (PG): Computer-animated Disney delight with a cast of fretful toys.
Barbican (0171-638 8891) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **MGMs: Baker Street** (0171-935 9772) **Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Leicester Square** (01426-915 683) **Marble Arch** (01426 914501) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Rio** (0171-254 6677) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **UCI Whiteleys** (0171-792 3332)

ENTERTAINMENTS

OPERA & BALLET

COLISEUM 0171 632 8300 (24hr)
ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE 0171 304 4000 for Box Off & Standby info. Tickets available on the day
The Royal Opera
Thur 7.00 ARABELLA
The Royal Ballet
Ton't, Tomor, Wed 7.30, Sat 2.00 & 7.00 GISELLE

THEATRES

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Recorded Information 0171 379 8884
Mon-Sat 7.45 Mats Thur & Sat 3.00

ALBERY 369 1730/344 444 420 0000 Eves 7.45, Mats Wed, Sat 3
BEST MUSICAL
CRITICS' CIRCLE AWARD 96
BEST ACTOR
ADRIAN LESTER
BEST ACTRESS
SHEILA GISH
BEST DIRECTOR
SAM MENDES
OLIVIER AWARDS 1996
COMPANY
by Stephen Sondheim & George Furth
Mon-Sat 7.45, Mats Wed, Sat 3.00

ALDWYCH 0171 416 6003/312 8039 /344 4444 (No booking fee)
F. MURRAY ABRAHAM
GEMMA JONES
TOLSTOY
by James Goldman
Previews from 25 April
Opens 30 April

ALDWYCH 416 6048/344 4444/420 0000(fee) Mon-Sat 8, Mats Thu 3, Sat 4
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CAROLINE LANGRISHE
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"VINTAGE COWARD" M on Sun
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APOLLO LABATTS HAMMERSMITH 416 6066 cc 344 4444/420 0000 (+bkg fee on all nos)
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JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT
starring PHILLIP SCHOFIELD
UNTIL APRIL 20
Tue-Sat 7.30, Mats Thu, Sat 3.00
EXTRA HALF-TERM MATINEES APRIL 4 & 11
Riverdance returns 16 May

APOLLO VICTORIA cc 0171 416 6055 cc 24hrs 0171 344 4444/0171 420 0000 Grps 0171 416 6075/ 413 3321
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"A REBORN THEATRICAL DELIGHT" Daily Mail
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ARTS 836 2132/420 0000
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'Best new play in London' Guardian
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CAMBRIDGE BO & cc 0171 494 5054 cc (no bkg fee) 312 1992/ 344 4444 Grps 413 3321/ 312 1970/ 494 5454
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THE MUSICAL
"FAME IS A FEEL-GOOD TRIUMPH" Mail On Sunday
"BREATHTAKING" Independent
Eves 7.30, Mats Wed & Sat 3.00

COMEDY 0171 369 1731cc 344 4444
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in DISGRACEFULLY YOURS
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Final Week. No Perf. Fri
Eves 8pm. Sat 6pm & 8.30pm

COMEDY 0171 369 1731/ cc 344 4444 (24hrs)
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TIMOTHY WEST
PETER VAUGHAN
TONY HAYGARTH
TIM HEALY
TWELVE ANGRY MEN
Directed by Harold Pinter
Previews from 11 April
Opens 22 April

CRITERION 369 1737/344 4444
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THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (abridged)
"A triumph" Times
Mats Thur at 3, Sat at 5
Sun at 4, Eves at 8pm
THE COMPLETE HISTORY OF AMERICA (abridged)
Tomorrow 8pm

CRITERION 369 1737/344 4444
REDUCED SHAKESPEARE COMPANY in
THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (abridged)
"A triumph" Times
Mats Thur at 3, Sat at 5
Sun at 4, Eves at 8pm
THE COMPLETE HISTORY OF AMERICA (abridged)
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DOMINION Ticketlines 0171 416 6060/ 0171 420 0000 (bkg fee). Grps 0171 416 6075/413 3321/420 0200
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OLIVIER Tomor 7.15 A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC Music & lyrics by Stephen Sondheim book by Hugh Wheeler
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JOLSON
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On Monday Nights Allan Stewart will play Jolson
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BEST PLAY Olivier Awards
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by DAVID HARE
Directed by RICHARD EYRE
"ONE OF THE PLAYS OF THE DECADE" Int. Herald Tribune
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CLIMBING MOUNT IMPROBABLE
by Richard Dawkins

TODAY
- *How the first* flying creatures developed in the primeval forest

TOMORROW
- Cutting out God — can evolution explain 'miracles'?

NHPA/STEPHEN DALTON

Dawkins suggests that the ancestors of today's predators might have started to develop flying skills when they leapt into the air in pursuit of insects such as this dungfly

The conquest of the air

To fly has for so long been a hopeless dream of humanity and, when we achieve it, we do so with such difficulty that it is easy to exaggerate how hard it is. Flying is second nature to the majority of animal species. Even among warm-blooded vertebrates, more than half the species fly. Flying seems formidable to us mainly because we are large animals.

If you are a very small animal, the conquest of the air is no problem. When you are very small, the harder challenge may be to stay on the ground.

Imagine a perfectly scaled-down hippopotamus, the size of a flea. The height (or length, or width) of the real hippo is perhaps a *thousand times* that of the flea-hippo. The weight of the hippo is then *a billion times that* of the flea-hippo. The surface area of the hippo is a mere million times that of the flea-hippo. So the flea-hippo has 1,000 times greater surface *area for its weight* than the large hippo.

It feels like common sense to *say that a scaled-down* miniature hippo would find it easier to float in the breeze than a *full-sized hippo, but it is* sometimes important to see what lies behind common sense.

For vertebrates true powered flight has evolved *independently in birds, bats and* pterosaurs. One possibility is that true flight grew out of the *habit of gliding between trees,* which lots of animals do. There is a whole world of life *in the treetops. For most of the* inhabitants of the forest their world is a vast, gently undulating, sunlit green meadow which just happens to be raised up on stilts.

The landscape is not literally unbroken. The aerial meadow is pock-marked with holes where it is possible to fall through to the ground: gaps that need to be bridged. Many kinds of animals are well equipped to leap across quite large gaps. The difference between a successful leap and an unsuccessful one could be a life and death matter. Any change in body shape that has the effect of extending the leaping range a little farther could be an advantage. The difference between a squirrel and a rat lies in the tail. The squirrel's tail is feathery with hairs that give it a large surface area to catch the air. A rat with a squirrel's tail would undoubtedly be able to leap a larger gap *than a rat with a* rat's tail. And, if the ancestors of squirrels had rat-like tails, *there would be a continuous* ramp of improvement, becoming more and more feathery.

> 'The first flying animals may have simply glided'

To begin with, an ancestor like an ordinary squirrel, living up trees but without any *special gliding membrane,* leaps across short gaps. However far it can leap without the *aid of any special flaps of skin,* it could leap a few inches further if it had a very slight *flap of skin, or a very slightly* increased bushiness of the tail. So *natural selection favours individuals with slightly* pouchy skin around the arm or leg joints, and this becomes *the norm.*

Now, any individuals with an even larger skin web can *leap a few inches further. After* many generations, species like the flying squirrels have evolved, capable of gliding hundreds of feet, and capable *of steering themselves into a* controlled landing.

It is possible that true flying *evolved from gliding ancestors* like these. It is easy to imagine true flapping flight evolving *from repetition of the muscular* movements used to control glide direction. Some biolo*gists, however, think that true* flight began on the ground, rather than up trees.

Flying fish take off in this second way, though from the sea rather than the land. They *swim at great speed in the* water and then shoot out into the air, presumably to the *consternation of pursuing* predators in the water from whose point of view they would vanish.

Flying fish illustrate the principle that if a gliding animal can move sufficiently fast along the surface it can *take off. The principle might* work for birds, because they evolved from two-legged dinosaurs some of which probably ran very fast along *the ground,* as ostriches do today.

Feathers are *modified reptilian* scales. It is possible that they originally *evolved for a different* purpose for which they are still *very important* — heat insulation. At all events, they are *made of a horny* material which is capable of forming flight surfaces.

Here is one guess as to how flying started in birds. The hypothetical ancestor, which we can imagine as a small, *agile dinosaur, runs fast after insects, leaping* with its powerful hind legs and snapping at the prey. Insects had evolved *into the air long* before. A flying insect is perfectly ca*pable of taking* evasive action, and the leaping preda*tor would benefit* from skill in mid-course correction. *The trick is to shift* your centre of gravity and the obvious *bits to move* are the arms. Once the arms are being *moved for this purpose,* they become more effective at it if they develop surfaces *to catch the air.*

> 'If you are small enough, then flight is no problem'

On the tree-gliding theory, the original role of the proto-*wings was to provide lift.* Only later were they used for control, and then finally flapping. On the jumping-for-insects theory, control came first, and *only later were the arms with* their surfaces commandeered to provide lift.

The beauty of this is that the same nervous circuits as were used to control the centre of *gravity in the jumping ances*tor would, rather effortlessly, have lent themselves to con*trolling the flight surfaces* later in the evolutionary story.

Perhaps birds began flying *by leaping off the ground,* while bats began by gliding out of trees. Or perhaps birds, too, began by gliding out of trees. The debate continues.

● *From* Climbing Mount Improbable, *by Richard Dawkins, published by Viking on April 25 (£20).*

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THE TIMES/DILLONS FORUM

Why we exist

Richard Dawkins

RICHARD DAWKINS, the controversial Oxford biologist, will argue at a *Times*/Dillons forum that Darwin has the answers to all nature's complexities.

The forum, to be held on Thursday, April 25, marks the publication of Professor Dawkins's latest book, *Climbing Mount Improbable* (Viking, £20). He will discuss the difference between accident and design in nature and will show how DNA has progressed through geological time to create our rich variety of plant and animal life.

Chaired by Sir John Maddox, the former editor of *Nature*, the forum will be held at the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1, starting at 7.30pm. Tickets at £10 (concessions £7.50), which include £3 off the price of Professor Dawkins's book, are available by phoning 0171-915 6613, by faxing the coupon below on 0171-915 6611, or by *sending the coupon and your remittance* to Dillons, 82 Gower Street, London WC1E 6EQ, where tickets can also be purchased.

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Research triggers rethink on cancer therapy and transplants ☐ Ancient tools yield bitumen clues

Immunity is alarming

SCIENCE BRIEFING

◆

Nigel Hawkes

ONE OF THE solidest of *scientific theories has come* under assault. In the 1950s, F. MacFarlane Burnet in Aus*tralia and Sir Peter Medawar* in Britain established that the immune system has to be *educated before it can recog*nise and attack invaders such as bacteria and viruses.

The clinching experiment was Medawar's: he showed that while adult mice reject *skin transplants from other* mice, newborn mice do not, apparently unable to distin*guish "self" from "non-self"*.

Now these venerable experiments have been thrown into *doubt. Three different* teams report in *Science* that not only can newborns recognise foreign material if it is *presented to them in the right* way, but also that adults can, under appropriate conditions, *tolerate foreign material. If* accepted, the new results imply that giving immunosup*pressive drugs to transplant* recipients is ultimately the wrong policy.

The T-cells, which launch the attack on an invader, do not respond to that invader — or antigen — alone. They need *a second signal, from the cells* carrying the antigen on its surface, the so-called antigen-*presenting cells. And some of* these are far more effective than others. Working at the US National Institute of Allergy *and Infectious* Diseases in Bethesda, Maryland, Drs Ephraim Fuchs and Polly Matzinger *showed that B* cells, one type of antigen-presenting cells, were far less effective than another type, the dendritic cells, which are long, stringy cells able to reach out and contact the T-cells. By increasing the amounts of dendritic cells, Dr Fuchs got newborn mice to respond to antigens, and Dr Matzinger did the opposite, boosting the B cells and persuading adult mice to be*come tolerant* to grafts.

In another paper in the same issue of *Science*, a team from the Veterans Affairs *Medical Centre in Baltimore* explores the susceptibility of newborn mice to viral infec*tions. Traditionally, this is* believed to be the result of the newborn's immature immune *system, but the team shows* this is not so. The mice *can* mount an immune response, *but only to low levels of the* virus — initial dose is everything. This could have impor*tant implications for child*hood vaccination.

Dr Matzinger *believes that T*-cells are triggered only if *there is a further* signal, an alarm message caused by tissue damage. That, she says, is why tumours are usually not eliminated by the immune system — they are not issuing the danger signal. In Medawar's experiment, she says, tolerance in newborns appeared because there were simply too few dendritic cells present to produce the stimulatory signal.

Not everyone is yet convinced, but if *she is right, the* result could be a new approach to immunology, cancer therapy and organ transplantation. The key will be identifying the alarm signal.

How Stone Age man got all glued up

MAN invented glue nearly 40,000 years ago, according to a team of French *scientists who* have studied ancient stone tools from a site in *Syria. The tools are covered* with traces of bitumen, used to attach them to wooden hafts. *The bitumen — a material* now used for surfacing roads and waterproofing roofs — appears to have been heated to make it a more effective glue.

The team, led by Dr Eric *Boëda of the University* of Paris in Nanterre, analysed black material on the stone tools from a site at *Umm el* Tiel in Syria using gas chromatography and mass spectrometry.

The presence of alkanes and aromatics containing 15 carbon atoms confirm *that it is* weathered bitumen, they report in *Nature*. Where the bitumen came from is unknown, but it was probably *found in a natural hydrocar*bon "seep", such as occur in many places in the world.

The tools date from a very interesting period, at about the time that modern man first *emerged. Scientific analysis of* the excavation layer immediately above the tools indicates *that it is 36,000 years old, but* the team believes that the tools may be much older.

If so, they would force a change in our perception of Stone Age technology, since *the earlier period has hitherto* been linked to much cruder techniques.

If men living considerably more than 40,000 years ago were capable of finding bitu*men, heating it, and using it as* a form of mastic to glue an axehead to a haft, then we may *have to reconsider carefully* just how sophisticated they really were.

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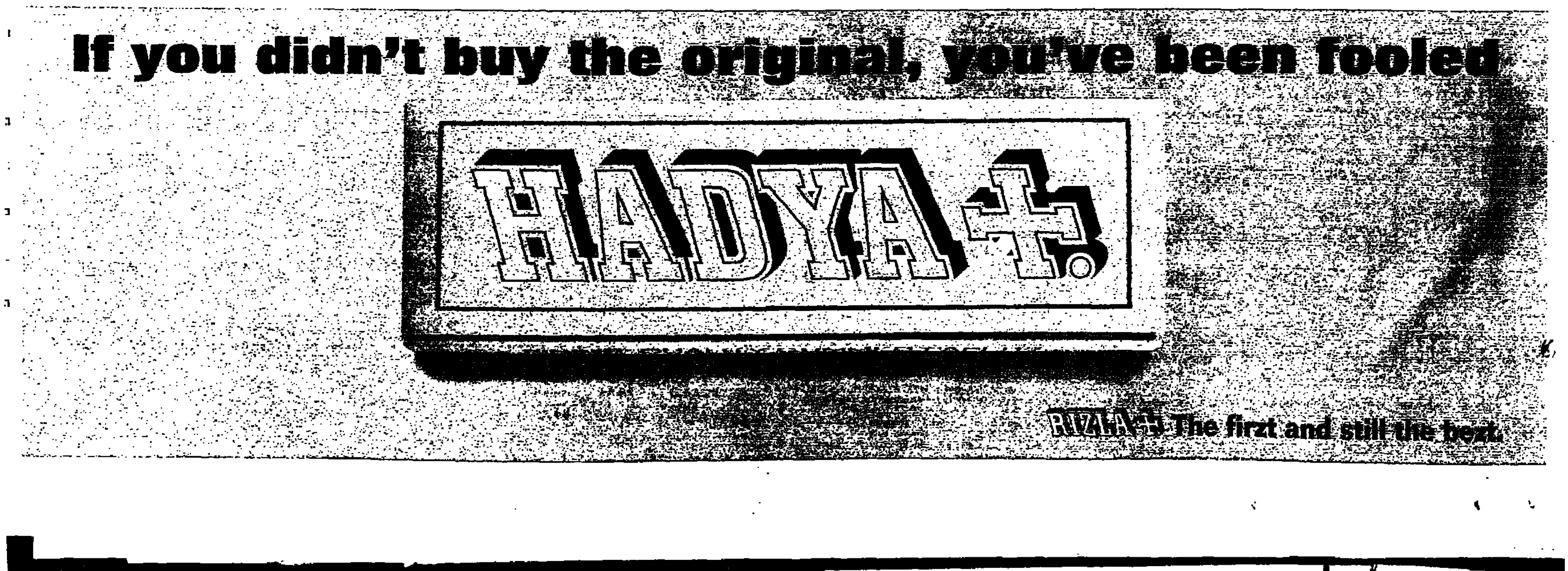

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Hip parents – who needs them?

Members of the Sixties generation are behaving like teenagers to the embarrassment of their children, says Joe Joseph

Teen-again: John Redwood has been drooling over Britpop, Edwina Currie checks out her sex scenes with her daughter and Jonathan King still chirrups like a teenager

You just can't avoid them nowadays, hanging out in their Adidas trainers and their pink mini-skirts and velvet hipsters, with those Walkmans that leak Pulp and Blur into the underground carriage, all raving about *Trainspotting*; and that cute habit they have of calling everything "bad" when they really mean good, which just impresses the hell out of Harvey Nichols salesgirls and also Marco Pierre White, no really it does. Jeez, hip parents — who needs them?

To a teenager, it's embarrassing enough having parents at all without having parents who have tongue-studs and sing Suede in the Renault Espace when it's their turn to do the school run.

But Britain is suddenly swimming with baby-boomer mothers and fathers who hear Blur and Oasis and think Carnaby Street and Swinging London: men and women who feel that because they remember the Beatles the first time around they can use their experience to help their own children through adolescence — just as they help their own children through algebra because they, too, went to school once.

> 'Pop songs punctuate our lives, yanking us back in time'

These are parents who couldn't stomach punk, couldn't decipher rap, but who think that Britpop is as balmy and as generation-friendly as the Beatles. Even the *Financial Times* writes articles about the current music scene.

A space alien glancing at the British "indie" record charts might assume that Oasis — at number one in both the singles and the album charts — was some marginal band that has developed a cult following among rebellious youth.

What keeps Oasis rich, however, is not the pocket money of 15-year-olds but the loose change of 45-year-old barristers and accountants and Saatchi copywriters who are undergoing a second adolescence. As Ma and Pa hum, "*Some might say, we will find, de-doo-de-doo-doo. Some might say, da-dum-dee-dum-dee-da* . . .", their mortified teenage children are just wishing they could behave like all their friends' parents and funnel their energies into something more appropriate, like campaigning for Frank Ifield's hits to be reissued on interactive CD-Rom.

The way Jonathan King still chirrups away about pop music and groovy this and funky that you'd think he hadn't started shaving yet. And MP-turned-novelist Edwina Currie debates the horniness of her sex scenes with her daughter. Why?

Even John Redwood — the Tory MP who is so straight he could serve as the template for the uncurved EU-approved cucumber — even *he* has been drooling over Britpop, though he tried to forestall derision by adding (with a nod to Orwellian double-think) that: "I do not admire middle-aged trendies who pretend to a second teenage by strenuously enjoying modern stars."

I don't know what this confession has done for Redwood's Tory leadership hopes, or his standing with the groovers of the 1922 Committee of Conservative backbenchers, but the thought of John Redwood gyrating like Jarvis Cocker in the House of Commons lobby mumbling "*I want to sleep with common people, I want to sleep with common people like you. Well what else could I do?*" has probably sent the nation's shocked youth into a crisis of identity.

Next thing you know, Redwood will be wearing his Gaultier sunglasses inside the parliamentary chamber and instead of just trying to catch Madam Speaker's eye when he wants to register disapproval of something another MP has said, he will ape Jarvis Cocker's snub to Michael Jackson at the Brit Awards and saunter uninvited into the opposition benches and make unseemly gestures.

Teen-again parents should consider this: first, that you deny teenagers their right to rebel against grown-ups if parents are doing exactly what their children are doing; secondly, a 48-year-old woman trying to act like a teenager becomes, in technical sociological jargon, "one sad mother".

There are of course some sensitive, indulgent children who take their mothers to one side and tell them that "being a liberal, open-minded kind of daughter I'm very happy for you to walk the streets of Esher wearing Patrick Cox knee-high black leather boots like those Nancy Sinatra had made for her to go walking in, just as soon as I've changed my name by deed poll and had a chance to move to Alaska".

As Noël Coward noticed, cheap music can be strangely potent. Tunes trigger memories. Pop songs do for us what dunking madeleines did for Proust. They become punctuation marks in our lives. A song, heard years later, yanks us back in time — often to a specific moment. To a teenage boy, Oasis's *Morning Glory* might catapult him back to his first date with Susie or Mimi. If Oasis's *Morning Glory* is also the tune that reminds his parents of the bash they held to celebrate their twentieth wedding anniversary, well, the effect on family bonds could be uncomfortable. Freudians might fear the effect may even be a little kinky.

What has happened? One minute every adult old enough to buy their own lunch knew the arbitrage rates between London and Frankfurt and pined for a Porsche. Now everyone knows the indie chart order and pines for a crushed velvet jacket in which to relive their youth. The Sex Pistols have proved that Heraclitus was wrong when he insisted that you can't jump into the same river twice. But, then again, he had probably never even heard of punk. Johnny Rotten & Co, now 40 and fat, are diving back into the river by re-forming for a world concert tour, even though they now quiver with all the anarchy of a Pep-linked private pension plan.

Even the Pope has robbed youth of one of its icons by wearing Doc Martens.

There are many embarrassing ways to grow old, including trying to gel your hairpiece. But never seeing 15 again has many rewards.

As a 50-year-old, you do not have to pine anxiously for sex all day and night; indeed, often you may not be pining for sex at all. At 50 you will be pining for really kinky things — those things that you would once have been far too embarrassed to confess a craving for, like reruns of *Terry And June* and discreet liposuction.

You can behave badly at home without the threat of being sent up to your room.

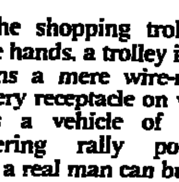
You can snigger at the sight of grandpa Mick Jagger still prancing around a stage in tights. At 50, it no longer matters that you weren't at Woodstock. You did, however, go to the Isle of Wight and long since vowed never to sleep in the open-air again, unless it was on a $500-a-night veranda in the Caribbean.

At 50 you realise that being on first-name terms with a good tax accountant is more rewarding than being on first-name terms with Damon Albarn of Blur — unless Damon has been taking evening classes in the new tax assessment rules and is up to speed on high-yield Chilean investment trusts.

You no longer need to bother trying to impress anyone, and if you walk blankly past an unlikeable old acquaintance, people will think you forgetful rather than rude.

Instead of hanging around outside the Bar Italia in Soho at three o'clock on a Saturday morning, trying to control your hormones, as a 45-year-old you can visit Soho in comfort. Maybe eat at Conran's Mezzo restaurant in Wardour Street, which was once the Marquee Club where the Rolling Stones and The Who played 30 years ago. In those days the concept "lemon grass" meant someone had smuggled their marijuana into the concert in an empty Jif squeezer. Now, you could afford to spend as much on a bottle of burgundy as you once did on a month's dope. Better still, you won't feel obliged to say "Oh, wow" all the time. Anarchy, like acne, is best reserved for gangly youths.

Gone shopping with the lads



SIGN OF THE TIMES

by Giles Coren

MEN, according to groundbreaking new research, think they are better at shopping than their wives. No surprises there. Men are better at everything. Only last year it was revealed that 90 per cent of men believe they are better-than-average drivers.

What is surprising is that the report took for granted the idea that men go shopping. Not so long ago, survey-takers would have been excited with the discovery that men actually shop at all. But the hot news in 1996 is that blokes shop faster than birds, and are better at finding bargains. This is manifestly true, and for very obvious reasons.

First of all it is about control of the shopping trolley. In male hands, a trolley is by no means a mere wire-meshed grocery receptacle on wheels. It is a vehicle of crowd-scattering rally potential. Only a real man can build up a head of steam past the dog food and dried fruit, and then lean out wide to bring the trolley round to a skid-stop at the processed cheese.

This is why you never see a man with a basket — a basket doesn't need a pilot. A real man will use a trolley to transport three onions and a packet of Silk Cut to the till.

At the helm of this vehicle, speed is all. To dally over the seven pence difference between Anchor and Lurpak would be like giving way to a BSM car at an intersection.

> 'Blokes shop faster and are better at finding bargains'

Which is why chaps go to the Harvey Nichols food market. "At least 40 per cent of our customers are single men shopping alone," says an observant female buyer at the Sloane Rangers' corner shop. "They come here because there is a café where they can have a coffee before embarking on the shopping, and a bar to celebrate afterwards with a beer." Men, eh?

"Men go out knowing exactly what they want, and they like to get the job over and done with quickly. The only place they stop to browse is over the wine and cigars." One thinks inevitably of Henry Higgins: why *can't* a woman be more like a *man*? Men are so honest, so thoroughly square . . .

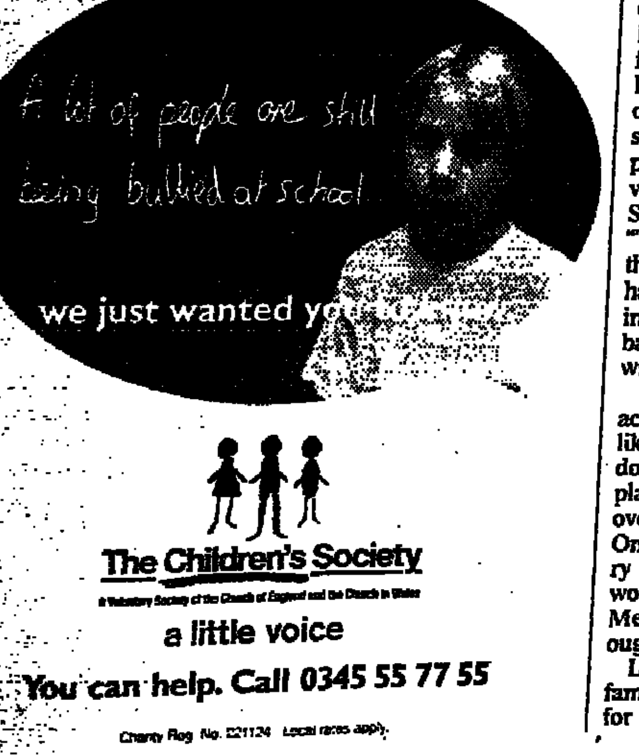
Look at Alan Clark. In his famous diaries he insists that for a hundred pounds one cannot even buy a decent bottle of claret. Who could possibly argue that the fellow doesn't know a bargain when he sees one?

Perhaps men think they are better at finding bargains because the things they are required to buy are cheaper than the products offered to women. In a designer clothes shop a woman's *shirt* will inevitably cost 10 or 20 per cent more than its exact equivalent in the men's department. Designer cosmetics, which are expanding into the men's market, are typically priced below their identical equivalent in the ladies' range. Men, it is presumed, will bear only so much.

It is not surprising, then, that when a husband and wife arrive home with identical shopping, the fortunate fellow will have been charged less, and consider himself the more cunning consumer.

In truth, the instinct of the man is to be more extravagant — hence the huge cost of premium beer, pornographic magazines and Formula One racing. In this he follows a dictum of the founding father of the modern lad, John Ruskin: "There is no such thing as cheapness in the universe. Everything costs its own cost, and one of our best virtues is a just desire to pay it."

What the shopping statistics really show is that men are better than women at only one thing, and it is the most important skill in the modern world — answering surveys.



A lot of people are still being bullied at school

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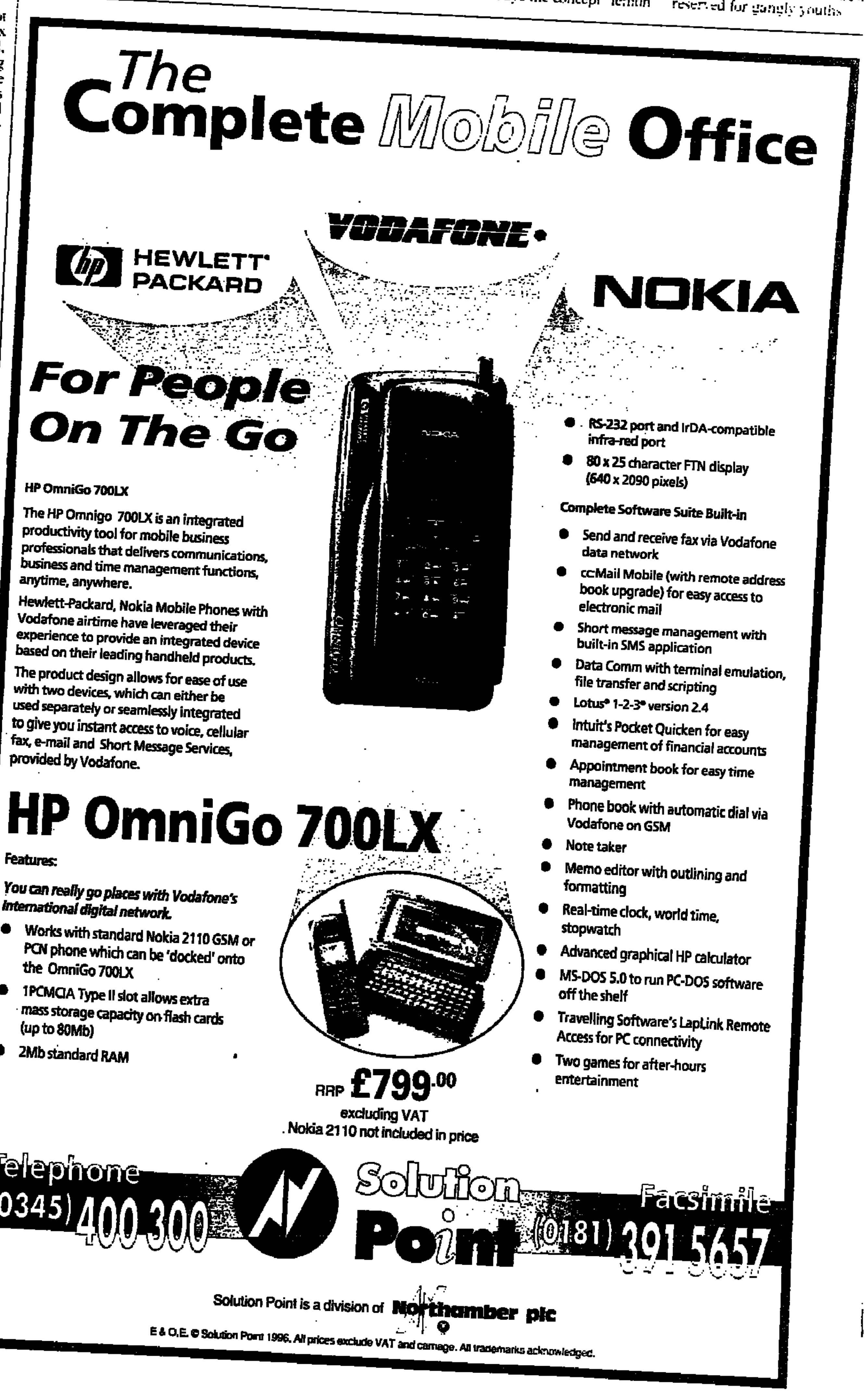

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Matthew Parris

■ Journalists behave like a pack of mad dogs, excited by their own barking as they tear a story apart

In public affairs, the pit canary and the waste-tip dog offer us warnings of different kinds. Let me explain.

Remember the pit canaries? Being more sensitive than human beings are to methane, these birds keel over at the first trace, giving miners time to escape. Pit canaries exist in other fields of endeavour too. Some politicians act as political pit canaries: they may lack a useful cynicism, but when they begin to stagger on their perches, we are alerted to the possibility — no more — of a bad smell.

The waste-tip dog is different. Rubbish is what these strays live and breathe, and their systems are proof against all but the strongest poisons. So if, on any rubbish dump, you see even the dogs gasping, you should wake up to the likelihood of serious toxicity. Canaries are the first to keel over, dogs the last.

On questions of balance and responsibility in newspapers, I ask you to count me with the dogs. This is not because I am a person of unusually low personal standards, but because of an ideological commitment to liberty. I believe the press should be free to print all manner of rubbish. I would even abolish the laws of libel. Short of war, we should accept no case for state censorship, whatever the circumstances. Please do not see this columnist therefore, as less than a robust — even reckless — champion of press freedom.

For a while there is no other news, nothing else matters. And it is getting worse

But I do think that British newspapers are going mad.

With each succeeding year it gets worse. We are running around like a pack of stray dogs. Something takes our interest, every single dog piles in, and we start barking at it.

For days or weeks we bark. For days or weeks nothing else, however important, can distract our attention. This is the news, this is *the* issue. There is no other news, there are no other issues, and nothing else matters. Aroused as much by our own and each other's noise as by the object of our transient interest, we nip and yap and howl and snarl ourselves into a kind of mad frenzy. We keep the British public awake and fighting all night.

Then, all at once and for no particular reason — just as with dogs in the night — the barking stops. A few hounds pause, perhaps for breath; a few others, sensing a diminution in noise, pause to reassess; the noise drops, the panic subsides, and a sense of calm and second thought develops spontaneously, rather as the rising hysteria did. Finally, as one or two stray voices bark on but with growing hesitation into the night, silence descends.

Some kind of internal mechanism has triggered a collective, unconscious canine recognition that the pack has now finished with this. The operation of the trigger has more to do with the emotional needs of the pack — with boredom and fatigue — than with any change in the world at which they bark. This continues in its orbit much as before. For a while, and until the next canine alarum, the night grows quiet and we can rest.

Unless I am mistaken, this temporary calm is about to return, after ten days barking at cows. The yap subsides. The diseases, BSE and CJD, are still there: still a matter for anxiety, still a matter for action, but never a matter for the sudden, crazy terror which enveloped us for a week, never a matter for the wholesale slaughter at colossal public cost towards which, for a few days, we egged each other on.

That is not what I was saying last week. I was part of it. In seven years of writing this column I have never once — and I gratefully acknowledge this — been placed under the least editorial pressure concerning what I write. But like any working journalist I can sense the topic of the hour. The buzz envelops me too; and there are times when any other subject looks out of place.

A few months ago it was Diana, and Diana was all. A month ago it was Scott, and we wrote of nothing else. Whither Scott now? Two weeks ago it was Dunblane. Dunblane is still there, but hardly in the newspapers. Last week it was BSE. In a fortnight BSE will still be there, but hardly in the papers. I have now written five parliamentary sketches in about as many days about "mad cow" disease, and this afternoon I may feel constrained to write a sixth. But I reckon it may be the last.

For this waste-tip stray, at least, a quiet despair about the British press is growing. I do believe in a free market in information, and I wish to believe that from competition comes variety and choice. But sometimes it seems that having ten newspapers instead of one merely means ten voices screaming rather than one, all screaming — and perhaps more frenziedly — at the same thing.

Rather than wring hands, however, I will ask a practical question. Why must a paper have a "lead" story at all? *Life* surely, does not designate a "lead" topic each day — and an advantage front pages have over broadcasting is that print journalists do not have to either. Many American newspapers don't. So why do we? A total ban on lead stories might stop us behaving, as we have been all year, like a pack of epileptic Muppets.

Complex operations on children continued at Bristol Royal Infirmary despite a disastrous record

Why did they allow so many to die?

William Rees-Mogg

Most discussion of the National Health Service assumes that the medical quality of the service is beyond criticism and that the only question is one of funding. A story from Bristol casts doubt on that assumption.

Bristol, and the Bristol Royal Infirmary in particular, has always been regarded as the centre of medical excellence in the West Country. Now it has become apparent that in one department, cardiac surgery on infant children, the medical treatment has been gravely inadequate, and that many children have died as a result. Although the department has now been reformed, the Trust defends what happened, and the man apparently responsible is still the Trust's medical director.

Last Thursday evening, Channel 4 broadcast a special edition of *Dispatches*, which investigated the record of cardiac surgery on children at the Bristol Royal Infirmary in the first half of the 1990s. The allegation, which has already been widely reported in the West Country, is that two Bristol surgeons continued to operate on children, often very young children, in the period 1988-95, even though their clinical results were much worse than those of other leading hospitals performing the same procedures. These operations continued after concern had been expressed; by their own anaesthetists, by the Royal College of Surgeons, by the professor of cardiac surgery at Bristol and eventually by the Department of Health itself. In addition, it is alleged that the parents of the children who died were in some cases given wrong information about the risks.

In the case of one infant, Daniel Willis, the surgeons performed a neonatal switch. Michaela Willis, the mother, noted in her diary at the time she had been told there was an 85 per cent survival rate in this operation. In fact there had at that time been nine previous neonatal switch operations performed at the hospital, in which six of the babies had died, a 33 per cent survival rate. It may have been true that there was an 85 per cent survival rate taken in Britain as a whole. It was not true that there was a similar rate at the Royal Infirmary. Daniel Willis became the seventh baby to die from this procedure.

In the unit's annual report for 1989-90, alarming statistics were already being reported, showing that deaths in operations on babies under one year were twice the British average, and no doubt worse than that relative to the best centres. The consultant anaesthetist, Dr Stephen Bolsin, wrote a letter expressing his concern to Dr John Roylance, who was in charge of the hospital at the time, expressing his concern at the high mortality rate. He got no response from Dr Roylance, but was referred to the then director of cardiac services, Mr James Wisheart, who was one of the two surgeons carrying out these operations. Dr Bolsin was rebuked for having written to Dr Roylance, and Mr Wisheart by his account made it clear to him that "this was not the way I should proceed in the future".

However, the Royal College of Surgeons did listen. In 1992 it reviewed and confirmed the data on fatalities, and warned the Department of Health. Perhaps the most authoritative quotation in the *Dispatches* report came from the President of the Royal College of Surgeons at the time, Sir Terence English. "When I reviewed the results from Bristol, it became apparent the mortality was disturbingly high. I communicated my concern to the Department of Health and added, in conjunction with the new President of the Royal College of Surgeons, because by then I had demitted office, my own recommendation that Bristol should be de-designated." Yet as Dr Bolsin comments, "the operations continued and the children continued to die".

In 1994 a new investigation was made at the request of the hospital's Trust itself and the Department of Health. This was made by Gianni Angelini, the new professor of cardiac surgery at Bristol. He recommended that a new paediatric cardiac surgeon should be appointed, that the paediatric service should be moved to the children's hospital, and that the complex neonatal switch operations should be halted. The first two recommendations were accepted by the Trust and have since been carried into effect. "By mid 1994, the Bristol Royal Infirmary had stopped performing arterial switch operations because of its disastrous record. Nineteen out of 41 infant patients died."

Yet in December a further such operation was performed on Joshua Evans. Mr Dhasmana, the second of the two surgeons, this time quoted the parents an 80 per cent success rate, which had certainly not been the experience at this hospital. Professor Angelini and Dr Bolsin protested; the parents of course were not told either of the Royal Infirmary's high mortality record or that a special meeting at the hospital had been called to decide whether to go ahead. Even the Department of Health raised its anxieties with the Trust. Dr Bolsin was present at the meeting, but Professor Angelini was not invited and Dr Bolsin was overruled.

The Trust decided to go ahead; the operation was performed; Joshua died. Following a highly critical report on this operation, the senior of the two surgeons, Mr Wisheart, decided to give up operating on children altogether. Unfortunately, he did not even stick to that resolution. On May 1, 1995, he operated on an 18-month-old boy; the boy died. That was the very day that Dr Ash Pawada, a world-renowed surgeon, started work in Bristol. Dr Pawada has since performed 180 operations with only four deaths, and the Bristol statistics are now among the best in Britain.

For understandable reasons, Mr Dhasmana and Mr Wisheart would not defend themselves to *Dispatches*. Hugh Ross, the new chief executive of the United Bristol Health Trust, appointed in 1995, made such defence as could be made. It is not a good one. He argued that "with hindsight we can now see that not everything is as we would have wished". But this was not a question of hindsight.

The most important warnings had been given early in the chapter of fatalities, many of which could presumably have been prevented. Mr Ross added: "I am sure that some parents will feel that we have let them down and that we have not done as well for them as they would have wished." Considering that these parents' children are dead, that is a gratuitously offensive understatement.

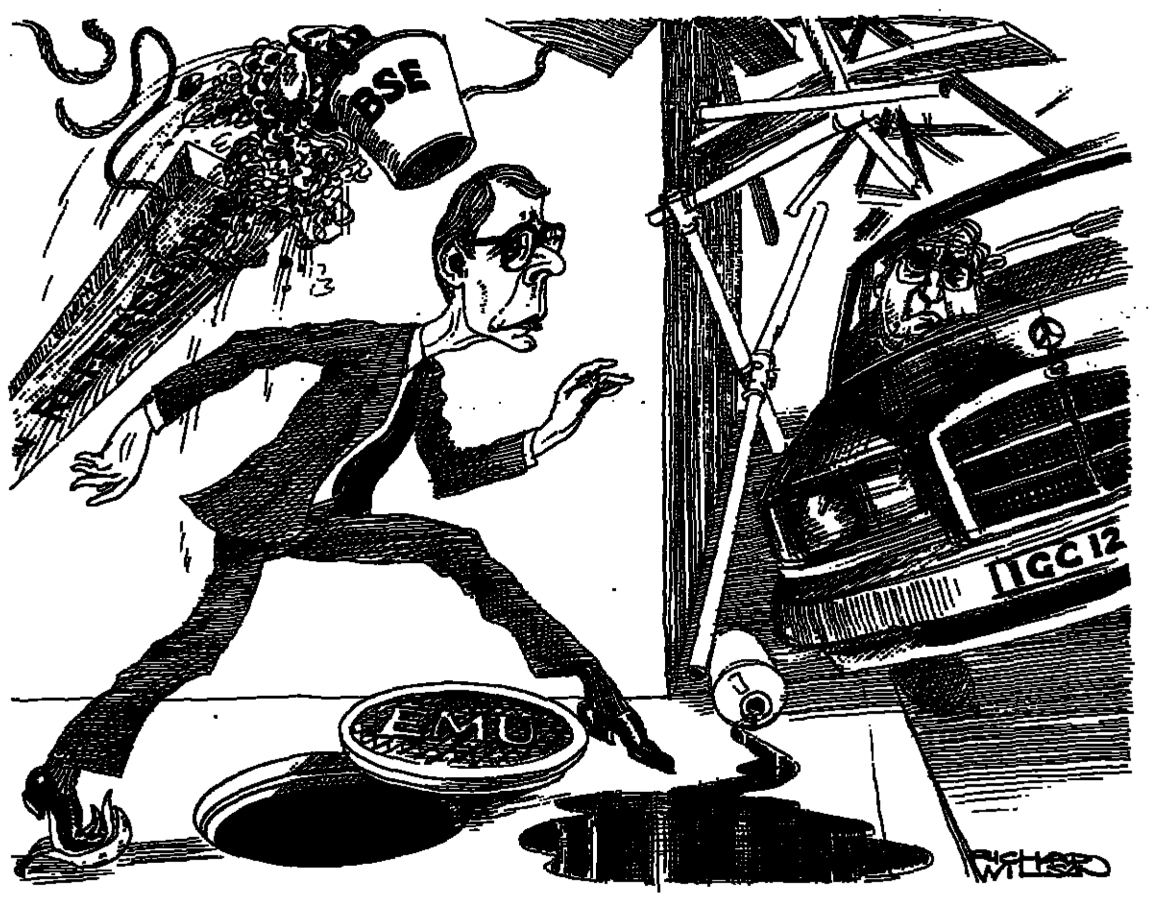
A number of questions arise. Why did the Trust not act earlier? Why were Professor Angelini's recommendations not acted on, at once and in full? Why were the later operations authorised? Why did the Department of Health fail to act on the advice of the Royal College of Surgeons? Why has there not been a public inquiry?

Mr Wisheart, who seems to have had the greatest responsibility at each stage, and in effect acted as the supervisor of his own surgical decisions, is still the medical director of the Bristol Royal Infirmary. Mr Ross accepts that Mr Wisheart's "performance, and he is the first to admit this, is less than he would have wished himself in the specific area of surgery in the past". Mr Wisheart continued operating on children despite his record of fatalities; he even operated on a child some months after he had himself decided to stop. And the child died.

There is also a national issue of the use and publication of individual outcome statistics in surgery. Some of the parents say that they would not have signed the consent forms if they had been given information about the hospital's unacceptable fatality levels. Their consents were therefore procured by information that was either misleading, as it seems to have been in some cases, or inadequate. Most of these fatalities would have been avoided if the parents had known what the Trust and the surgeons knew. Some doctors seem to have put professional solidarity ahead of the safety of their patients. If this could happen in Bristol, it could certainly happen elsewhere.

Beyond damage limitation

As the parties limber up for the election, **Peter Riddell** wants some answers



RIDDELL ON MONDAY

The Tories have at last settled on a political strategy. It isn't a bad one in the circumstances. The snag, of course, is the circumstances. In Harrogate on Saturday, John Major's case sounded coherent — a *pot pourri* of his commonsense conservatism — until you remembered what had been left out. Apart from a joke about spending his birthday at the Turin summit, there was no reference to Europe, and there was none at all to the arguments over a referendum on a single currency which so preoccupy the Cabinet. The beef panic was turned into an attack on Labour. Mr Major sounded like a company chairman presenting his business plan while barely acknowledging public criticisms of his managers and the collapse in his share price.

Still, Mr Major at least sounded as if he had a reason for wanting to remain in Downing Street. A consolidation strategy has been rejected. The Tory high command accepts that it has to offer a positive case for an unprecedented fifth term. The search that was attempted in the early Major years to find the distinctive essence of Majorism, to replace Thatcherism, has been abandoned after the presentational disasters of "back to basics" and the like.

Instead, there is a two-pronged approach: first, validating the reelection of the Tories in 1992 by pointing to the prosperity and tax cuts now coming through after the earlier "necessary" sacrifices, and second, presenting an optimistic message about the prospects for Britain as, in the dread phrase, "the enterprise centre of Europe" — provided we remain competitive. The emphasis is on welcoming change, to counteract Labour's "time for a change" appeal. There is a lot of rather hearty talk, much liked by Michael Heseltine, about meeting challenges, hard work and prudence, and about how this is the only way that both lower taxes and improved public services can be afforded.

Most people may recognise the inevitability of increasing global competition, but that does not mean they accept the consequences in terms of redundancies, personal anxiety and social dislocation. That refusal gives force to Labour's campaign about economic insecurity. Mr Major acknowledged some of these worries with his proposals on law and order, parental choice in schools, expanding the role of GPs and assisting people to meet the costs of long-term residential care in old age.

The Tories are about to intensify their warnings about what would be at risk under Labour. Ever since Tony Blair was elected Labour leader in July 1994, they have been unsure how to handle him. Ministers have veered, often in the same speech, between saying that Mr Blair is just a smiling face or Bambi (inane after his Clause Four victory), that Labour has no new policies (it already has probably too many), that Labour has stolen Tory clothes so why not vote for the real thing (confuses people) and that Labour has not really changed (not believed by voters).

Now, instead, a more sophisticated approach has been adopted: that Labour has changed its rhetoric but not its instincts. Tory strategists see a conflict between Labour's language of aspiration and its specific policies: despite Gordon Brown's restraining hand, many Labour MPs believe public spending is the answer to most problems. Mr Blair may say he wants Britain to be competitive, but, the Tories argue, he supports measures such as the social chapter, the minimum wage and increased burdens on business, which would harm competitiveness. Hence the Tories' eagerness to debate with Labour about the stakeholder society, rather on the Opposition's ground of competence and government drift.

By contrast, Labour is pursuing a risk-averse strategy: avoiding spending and tax commitments, and indeed not saying or doing anything which gives the Tories any ammunition. As Mr Blair stressed yesterday, his plan for a ballot of all Labour members on its draft manifesto is intended to show that the whole party is committed to realistic policies.

The two main parties are like 18th-century armies, circling each other warily and engaging in ritual skirmishes in the form of Prime Minister's Questions. In view of their ghastly stridency each Tuesday and Thursday, is there any point in having a televised debate between the leaders during the election campaign? The mere suggestion of such an event was yesterday accepted with "alacrity" by Mr Blair, before cold water was poured on it by Brian Mawhinney.

As a democrat and a journalist I suppose that I should be enthusiastic. But the American experience makes me cautious. There, the format is negotiated like the peace in Bosnia: will it be a single moderator, a panel of journalist questioners or a studio audience of "real" people? James Baker, who makes Dr Mawhinney seem cuddly, famously got the better of the Dukakis campaign to benefit George Bush in the 1988 debates. There are a few hilarious pages about the preparations in 1992 — the briefing of journalists *during* the debates, and the satellite link-ups to offer the right "spin" afterwards — in *All's Fair* by Mary Matalin and James Carville, then rival advisers and now married. The debates consume vast amounts of time, paralysing the campaigns, and the leaders become obsessed with avoiding trivial gaffes which will be blown up out of all proportion. All the candidates want is to avoid being regarded, rightly or not, as the loser.

In Britain, there would be a danger of a prickly, negative confrontation, as so often happens in the Commons, in which neither leader would appear as he is. This might be aggravated if one of the great figures of television were the moderator. Perhaps someone less politically involved but with unquestioned authority should preside. As Sir Richard Scott, let alone Presiley Baxendale, would presumably not be acceptable to the Tories, how about that arbiter of public standards, Lord Nolan? His courteous persistence might embarrass the leaders into politeness, and possibly even candour. *Someone* has to force them to spell out the implications of their chosen strategies.

THE TIMES DIARY

Miss fortune

JUST when it seemed things had reached rock bottom for the Duchess of York, she is being claimed as a friend by one of the world's barmiest celebrities, Jackie Stallone, astrologer, women's mud-wrestling promoter and mother of Sylvester.

The two met in Qatar recently, when the Duchess took part in a bottom-achingly long desert horse race organised by the local Emir.

Miss Stallone, 72, is the sort of woman who centuries ago would have roamed mad and warty across the land, dismissed as a raver. She has been rude about the Queen, and once claimed to be the Princess of Wales's favourite astrologer. A couple of years ago she told anyone who would listen that her son and the Princess were likely to become romantically linked.

The Duchess is a patron of Sly's Planet Hollywood hamburger restaurants, and his business partners, the actor Bruce Willis and his wife, the actress Demi Moore, had lunch at the Duchess's home three weeks ago.

Now, in an interview with an Australian magazine, Miss Stallone claims that when the Duchess was musing out loud in Qatar about slimming pills, she intervened with the suggestion she marry a rich sheikh.

"There are all these men dressed alike, all very rich and with no underwear," she advised the Duchess. "Perfect for a single girl." The Duchess's reaction is not recorded, but according to Miss Stallone the Duchess too is now a committed client of her fortune-telling services.

La Stallone: giving advice

New Friends

WHEN Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Secretary, met Franz Fischler, the EU Agriculture Commissioner, in Brussels last week, he was among friends, thanks to his adroit adviser, George Osborne.

Fischler, a jovial Austrian, visited London in February for talks with Hogg. After lunch, however, he found himself at a loose end for the afternoon. Osborne, 24, suggested a visit to the Cézanne exhibition at the Tate. Fischler looked excited. Tickets, however, would be harder to come by than an EU cow-slaughtering grant.

A call was put through to the Department of National Heritage. No dice. Re-enter Osborne. Producing a Friends of the Tate card, he ventured that if he could get the Commissioner in as a guest on his card, his *chef de cabinet* could probably sneak in as well. So, taking the chance, the three headed off.

The plan was smoother than the *chef de cabinet's* hair grease. While Osborne signed Fischler in as his guest, M le Chef darted past the distracted security staff and into the show. The Austrians were said to be highly impressed.

● *At the launch of the Conservative 2000 Foundation last year, it was stressed that this was much more than a support group for John Redwood. Issue 2 of* Foundation News, *however, suggests otherwise. In four pages, Redwood is mentioned eight times, his speeches are quoted at length, his book receives a healthy plug, 13 speaking engagements are listed in full, and there is an invitation to a fund-raising dinner to be addressed by, you guessed it, John Redwood.*

Chelsea girl

YESTERDAY saw the end of Chelsea Clinton's eight-day official visit to Europe. Throughout her trip, the First Daughter was accompanied by her mother, Hillary.

That, at least, is one way to interpret Mrs Clinton's sweep through the continent with her daughter. At the start of their presidency, the Clintons guarded Chelsea's privacy, refusing to let her be used for cheap political ends. These are desperate times for the embattled Mrs Clinton, however, so she played the Chelsea card.

Miss Clinton, 16, covered her head for the Blue Mosque in Istanbul, managed to look alert during a hot tour of Athens, and exchanged repartee with soldiers in Ankara. Her father's girl, she even went into Clintonesque sincere mode when thanking a GI in a Bosnian hospital for his commitment to global freedom (he was, in fact, a hernia patient). The travelling press was so entranced that Whitewater was barely mentioned. We may be seeing more of candidate Chelsea.

● *Telephone operators at Tory Central Office are likely to have sore fingers this morning after the Labour Party's April Fool advertisement on page six of this newspaper. By publishing the telephone number and address of Central Office and a coupon to claim a £2,030 refund from the Tories, however, Labour is taking its revenge cold. For it was during the last election that the Tories first added the Labour Party headquarters number to the end of a party broadcast. The telephone operators at Walworth Road have never forgotten it.*

"April Fool!"

Best bishop

HAS April Foolery gripped *The Church of England Newspaper* too? Usually it is a pamphlet for the stripey-mugs-and-cardigans tendency, but this week's front page carries the Baroque headline "Play Fantasy Bishops and Win £25,000".

First select your bishop and his team, which will include suffragan bishops, archdeacons and the diocesan secretary, from any diocese you care to choose.

Points are awarded on criteria ranging from "how many new vicarages have been built" (with extra points for *en suite* facilities) to "how many clergy in distress the archdeacons have visited" and "how many clergy went over to Rome after the vote to admit women to the priesthood". Natty episcopal dressing also wins points.

The £25,000 prize is said to have been donated by a Lottery-winning suffragan bishop.

P·H·S

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ANXIETY'S AGE

No politician has yet made us feel confident about change

The audience that John Major addressed on Saturday was full of elderly, experienced and loyal party officials. Eschewing the difficult topics of cows and Europe, he dwelt upon the issues that bother these most conservative of activists in their everyday lives: security, security and security. Who will look after them when they grow old, or even older? Will they have to sell their house to pay for care? How will their children and grandchildren manage if they lose their jobs? Even when Mr Major touched upon other areas, he still managed more than once to slip in the verb "to secure", in an attempt to play to his listeners' subconscious.

The Prime Minister has realised that the age of anxiety is harming his electoral chances. Why is rising prosperity not translating into economic optimism and thence to support for the Tories? Some, such as Michael Heseltine, argue simply that incomes have not grown enough to make people feel richer. Others fear that insecurity continues to cast a shadow over any increase in wealth. What use is a little more money to people if they fear that their job may go at any time, and that they then risk losing their house as well? Any extra income will have to be used to insure against exigencies that used to be covered by the State, such as long-term care or mortgage payments if they lose their job.

Tony Blair has sensed the political opportunity here. The advantage ought naturally to lie with the Conservatives; they are supposed to be the efficient, reassuring party, to be contrasted with Labour's incompetence and recklessness. But the past few years have so battered the Government's reputation that the public does not now even trust ministers who claim that it is safe to eat beef.

Both parties know that the voters of Britain are naturally conservative. That is why the Tories have been in power for most of this century. Even Margaret Thatcher's radicalism was not eagerly grasped by the electorate: each privatisation, for instance, was opposed at the time. And that is why Mr Blair is trying to turn Labour into a decaffeinated Tory party, threatening little excitement and promising much moderation. He realises that, for most of the population, change is something to be feared.

But ever faster change is unavoidable. Job security cannot be guaranteed by any politician in any Western democracy. The Prime Minister may promise "secure jobs", as he did on Saturday, but he cannot deliver them.

Much more realistic was Mr Heseltine's speech. "Increasingly," he said, "the only security that will be on offer is the security that comes from the ability to change. The better our education, the more relevant our training, the more versatile our skills, the better able we will be to cope with change in a world increasingly changing."

This is why education — life-long as well as at school or university — has to be at the heart of the political debate. People need to be well enough qualified to feel confident that they will find another job should their current one disappear. The trouble is that this demands a whole new attitude from traditional Conservative voters. For today's pattern of unemployment has done more to break down class differences than any government policy. Now that middle-class and professional employees are as likely to lose their jobs as the traditional working classes, they have to reassess themselves, to define their identity and their status not by their job, but by the skills they possess.

Today's young people have been warned about the new world of work and are ready to deal with it. The problem generation consists of those aged between about 25 and 55 who were brought up with the old ways and are having, painfully, to readjust their expectations. Denying that this is necessary will not fool them. But the ability to tell their story in a way which makes them feel good about themselves is something that no British politician has yet managed to grasp.

IN SEARCH OF AN EXIT

Chechenia has become a vital issue in the Russian elections

President Yeltsin's new strategy for settling the conflict in Chechenia, unveiled yesterday, may well go the sad way of previous failed initiatives. This brutal 27-month conflict, which he now describes as "Russia's biggest problem", will not easily be halted. Both sides have showed singular disregard for civilian casualties or the laws of war. Russian soldiers have engaged in arson, pillage and intimidation; Chechen fighters have resorted to hostage-taking and terrorism.

Mr Yeltsin's order to end all Russian combat operations as of midnight last night will almost certainly be tested by Chechen guerrillas and, as he made clear, Russian troops will hit back hard. His talk of extending "zones of conciliation, security and peace in the Chechen republic" will be bitterly dismissed by Chechen peasants who have seen whole villages flattened over the past few weeks by Russian troops conducting a ferocious pre-ceasefire offensive.

But what is not in doubt this time round is Mr Yeltsin's determination to prove that he is sincere about a political settlement. The reason is simple: he needs progress desperately if he is to have a chance of beating his Communist opponent, Gennadi Zyuganov, in this June's presidential elections. The war, with its shadows of the disastrous Afghan campaign, has come to dominate Russian voters' concerns. Opinion polls repeatedly show that they care more about ending the Chechen conflict than they do about bleak living standards or even organised crime — and four times as much as they care about recreating the Soviet Union.

On this last issue, Mr Yeltsin has moved deftly since last month's Communist-led vote in the Duma asserting the "legitimacy" of the old Soviet Union. The Communists are out to milk the nostalgia vote with their "Russia, Motherland, People" campaign slogans. But the belligerent tone of the Duma resolution troubled many Russian voters, including those who support the "reintegration" of the Soviet empire as a general goal. Mr Yeltsin has seized the opportunity to show that he possesses a safer pair of hands than his opponents.

His tactic is to borrow some nationalist garb from Mr Zyuganov's coalition of "popular patriotic forces", while denouncing its jingoistic neo-imperialism as opportunist and unrealistic. His chance to regain the initiative came almost immediately after the Duma vote, when Aleksandr Lukashenko, the incompetent and undemocratic President of Belorussia, sought escape from the country's economic collapse by demanding union with Russia. Shrewdly, Mr Yeltsin fobbed him off with a deal on "economic union". Due to be signed tomorrow, this stops far short of a merger; and the Russian President has gone out of his way to insist that there is no question of Russia reabsorbing Belorussia into a single state.

Defusing Chechenia as an electoral issue will be even trickier. But with the thawing of Russia's winter snows, Mr Yeltsin appears to be recovering some of his old energy. He is still well behind Mr Zyuganov, but the gap is narrowing; and the Chechenia plan is politically astute. He has offered Chechenia a new status short of independence, to be negotiated by a state commission. This is to include members of the Duma and the parliament's upper house, on the ground that the crisis can be resolved only if "all branches of the Russian federal power" cooperate. Thus, if the plan succeeds, he can claim authorship; if it fails, his opponents will no longer be able to blame him alone. This time, they too will have been involved.

WHOSE FOOL?

The best sauce for spoofs is surprise

Brevity may be the soul of wit but spontaneity is the heart of humour. The more lengthy, laboured, contorted or contrived a comic invention, the less likely it is to amuse. Whether they are cock and bull or shaggy dog, the menagerie of tall tales should be put down. That is why, quite apart from our commitment never knowingly to print an untrue word, there are no April Fool's Day spoofs on our pages today.

We print no tired jests about inventors who have patented paint which is striped or tartan, no amazing archaeological finds of teddy bears in mummy caskets or Socrates' tomb. Novelty lent charm to some early journalistic outings into whimsy. When po-faced *Panorama* reported on the failure of the Italian spaghetti harvest the BBC was, after long years encased in Reithian pin-stripes, putting on the jester's motley. As a one-off it worked, but when broadcasters make such behaviour a habit they also make it a bore. The crudest slapstick is more likely to entertain than the exhausted inventions of those whose talent for extravagant fiction is normally restricted to their expenses forms.

Our objection to the April Fool's joke is aesthetic — the tall tale is a poor relation to the genuine aristocracy of humour; the witty barb, the elegant parody, acid satire or gentle irony. There is also an economic objection. Why waste energy on spinning yarns when so much occurs naturally which one could never make up? British taxpayers pay Spanish fishermen compensation for temporarily denying them the right to plunder our waters? Ridiculous!

The economic and aesthetic aside, there are moral objections also, and they are far from the preserve of the prig or Puritan. A Sri Lankan newspaper once printed a false prospectus for foolproof lottery riches and provoked a violent riot among gulled readers. A Virginian radio station prompted a village to evacuate with an ugly tale about the local landfill site, which they claimed was about to suffer a methane explosion and shower the neighbourhood with rocket-propelled refuse.

Harsher voices may say these little people are foolish to believe and fodder for a belly laugh. But the generous will find it a poor sort of fun that relies on the pain of others to keep a smile on one's lips.

Occasionally, of course, there is a place for outright deception in humour. When the prank combines cunning and chutzpah as well as acting as a solvent for solemnity it takes its place at comedy's top table. Henry Root's epistolary exposure of the pompous is a case in point. But Root relied not just on mocking the mighty, but on another comic virtue — timing. The Achilles' heel of the April 1st prankster is his predictability. He tries to trick on the day all England expects it. The best sauce for spoofs is surprise.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Public confidence in sentencing

From Sir Ivan Lawrence, QC, MP for Burton (Conservative)

Sir, The attack by David Thomas ("Real time, false logic", Law, March 26) on Michael Howard's proposal for "real-time sentencing" is unlikely to move many of my Middle England constituents.

They will be as underwhelmed by Dr Thomas's alternative suggestion that the judge should do more to explain to the criminal what his half-time sentence really means as they will be by the heartrending complaint that the Howard proposal will "throw away overnight" the delicate complex of sentencing practices developed over decades of judicial seminars.

What my constituents actually want — and surely have a right to expect — is better protection against criminals from judges, with sentences which fit the crime and last as long as the judges say they should last.

Not having their support for his alternative would be bad enough for Dr Thomas, but not having the support of the Lord Chief Justice must be far worse. For in his recent speech at King's College London (report, March 7), Lord Taylor said:

> I am not opposed to all the measures signalled by the Home Secretary. In particular, I believe there is merit in his proposal to bring sentences actually to be served by a prisoner closer to the sentence pronounced by the court.
>
> Certainty and consistency are best served when the public is able easily to understand the true effect of the sentence a court has pronounced. Clarity here also assists in giving sentences their appropriate weight as a deterrent. I believe public confidence in the system is eroded when convicted criminals are seen to walk free from prison after serving rather less than half of their sentences, however good their behaviour may have been in the interim.
>
> Indeed the system has now reached a point where the sentencing exercise in court has the appearance of a charade with everyone engaged in a calculation of how much less than the pronounced sentence will actually be served ... Accordingly I support the principle that we should have what the Home Secretary has called "honesty in sentencing" — that the sentence served should bear a very much closer relation to the sentence imposed.

It might be of some comfort for Dr Thomas to learn that his opinion coincides with that expressed in paragraphs 84-86 of Jack Straw's new policy paper entitled *Honesty, Consistency and Progression in Sentencing*. It will be far more comforting to my constituents to know that on this issue the Home Secretary has the ringing endorsement of the Lord Chief Justice of England.

Yours truly,
IVAN LAWRENCE
(Chairman,
Home Affairs Select Committee),
House of Commons.
March 27.

From Mr Christopher Lee

Sir, This morning I finished writing a new episode of the BBC Radio 4 history of Britain series, *This Sceptr'd Isle*, dealing with an earlier debate on law and order. I have in front of me a few lines from the script. They come from a document entitled, *An Inquiry whether Crime and Misery are produced or prevented by our present system of Prison Discipline*.

Here is an extract concerning new offenders:

> He (the prisoner) may be compelled to mingle with the vilest of mankind, and in self-defence, to adopt their habits, their language and their sentiments; he may become a villain by actual compulsion ... His trial may be long protracted; he may be imprisoned on suspicion, and pine in jail while his family is starving out of it, without any opportunity of removing that suspicion ... You give him leisure, and for the employment of that leisure you give him tutors in every branch of iniquity.

A familiar argument today, made more interesting by its date, 1818. The document, written by an MP, Sir Thomas Fowell Buxton, was so widely read that it had to be reprinted five times in one year.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER LEE,
Chapel Farm House,
North Wootton, Somerset.
March 26.

Paedophile restrictions

From Professor Nigel D. Walker

Sir, If the Home Secretary is thinking of restricting paedophiles' access to jobs allowing contacts with children (report and letters, March 23), he should have the support of any surviving members of the Advisory Council on the Penal System. We recommended this a quarter of a century ago.

I am, etc,
NIGEL WALKER,
University of Cambridge
Institute of Criminology,
7 West Road, Cambridge.
March 23.

No Smoking Day

From Dr J. A. D. Ewart

Sir, If a boy robbing his father of the joy of "indulging" in a cigarette is not moral blackmail, what is (letters, March 25; see also letters, March 14, 19, 22)?

Yours faithfully,
J. A. D. EWART,
Delgany,
Solesbridge Lane,
Chorleywood,
Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire.
March 27.

The RSPCA and charitable status

From the Chairman of the RSPCA Council

Sir, The RSPCA's long-running campaign to improve the conditions of primates used in research is not a "casualty" of any ruling by the Charity Commission (report, March 28; see also letter, March 29).

Accepting that we were not allowed, under charity law, to ask for a ban on chimpanzee testing if the experiments are of benefit to mankind and there are no alternatives — and we fully understand this reasoning — we simply changed the campaign's emphasis. This was not detrimental to the message we wanted to put across to the public.

The principle of charity law — enshrined in a National Anti-Vivisection Society case some forty years ago — cuts both ways, since the RSPCA is supported by the Charity Commission in campaigning on issues such as hunting with hounds. We believe that if it is necessary to kill foxes that have become pests, there are alternatives, such as shooting, which cause far less suffering than chasing the animal for miles and then letting a pack of hounds rip it to pieces.

In reference to claims that we would be forced to tone down many of our campaigns, which would represent a victory for the blood sports lobby, the Chief Charity Commissioner, Richard Fries, has expressed his view recently that "the law allows considerable scope for the RSPCA to continue to campaign against cruelty in cases in which that cruelty cannot be justified by a greater benefit conferred on mankind".

The RSPCA's ruling council of trustees is democratically elected, which means their spread of views on animal welfare is wide and diverse. This often results in robust debate — yet Sir David Steel seems to have a problem with what he calls the RSPCA's "vociferous minority". However, the opportunity for individuals to air their opinions, whatever those opinions may be, is an essential part of any democratic organisation.

Yours etc,
RONALD F. KIRKBY,
Chairman, RSPCA Council,
Causeway, Horsham, West Sussex.
March 29.

From Mr Peter Talbot Willcox

Sir, Should not the RSPCA be prepared to forgo its tax exemptions and stand firm against all cruelty to animals?

The RSPCA ought to reflect or mirror the interests of animals rather than of human society. If it is not prepared to do so a new organisation is needed — whatever its tax status.

Yours faithfully,
P. D. R. TALBOT WILLCOX,
Thanescroft,
Shamley Green, Surrey.
March 29.

From Miss Mary-Elizabeth Raw

Sir, As a veterinary surgeon, I have saved animals' lives, and as a patient my own life has been saved, by drugs which have been tested on animals. Until such a time as alternative methods have been developed, how does the RSPCA expect its own veterinary hospitals to function without the use of such drugs?

Yours faithfully,
M.-E. RAW,
40 Milton Green,
Weston-super-Mare, Avon.
March 28.

A day to remember and give thanks

From Mr Humphrey Dell

Sir, I am very much attracted by Mrs Coleridge's suggestion (letter, March 26; see also letter, March 20) that the emphasis of Remembrance Day should be moved to a theme of thanksgiving for those things we would not be enjoying today but for the duty well done by servicemen and the sacrifices which they made in the wars of this century.

This combination of sentiments was brought home to me most vividly when I had the great privilege of attending the Homecoming at the West Point Military Academy in the USA in 1979, an event which by tradition coincides with the Thanksgiving weekend.

There on the Saturday the veteran students, drawn up on parade class by class, are saluted as a mark of respect by a march past of current cadets, while on the Sunday those who gave their lives are remembered by a service in the chapel.

But across the nation the weekend is devoted to giving thanks for the blessings of today made possible by the hardships and sacrifices of the past.

Against this background I support Mrs Coleridge's suggestion of a public holiday of thankfulness on the Friday of the last weekend of October, including one would hope, a two-minute silence, so that each may remember in their own way what the past has held.

Yours faithfully,
HUMPHREY DELL,
5 Dunstable House, Riverside,
Marlow, Buckinghamshire.

From Mr Paul Caswell

Sir, Recently retired, I come from the first generation of Britons for many centuries that has never been required en masse to put on uniform and go off to war. For this, I am eternally grateful, and not least to the vision of such people as Monnet and Schuman that led to the present European Union. I can put up with any amount of argument about the meaning of "chocolate" if war remains banished.

We take for granted the present peaceful state of Western Europe, forgetting that the former Yugoslavia is more the historic norm. But war-dogs are never secure in their kennels: we have to work at peace and part of this process is surely a reformed annual festival of Remembrance.

A Friday-to-Sunday occasion once a year, embracing the holy days of three major faiths, would be a good start.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL CASWELL,
57 Hanson Drive, Fowey, Cornwall.
March 27.

BBC guidelines

From Mr Ian Curteis

Sir, Most viewers and listeners will loudly applaud Mr Marmaduke Hussey's parting shot at the BBC: the tightening of the corporation's producers' guidelines over matters of taste, decency, fairness and balance (report, March 25).

However, the problem with guidelines has always been that of enforcement, not intention. They are not binding and in my experience are held in low esteem, if not contempt, by many producers, whatever they may say in public.

I recently took part in a studio discussion for the television programme *Biteback*. When it was pointed out that the guidelines had been seriously breached in a particular case, the senior BBC head of department responsible dismissed them with a smile and flick of the hand as "very rarefied", while another programme-making panellist whose name is never off our screens at the moment declared he had never heard of them, let alone read them.

Surely the solution is to require every BBC employee to countersign the wording of section 5 of the new charter and agreement which enshrines the mandatory requirements laid on the corporation in these matters, as part of the conditions of his employment and as confirmation that he has read, understood and intends to abide by them.

That would bring home to him the uniqueness of his responsibility in accepting £1.6 billion of consumers' money with strings attached — the strings of required standards. That money is the people's money, not the programme-makers'.

It would be parallel to certain civil servants having to countersign the wording of the Official Secrets Act because of their exceptional responsibilities. BBC programme-makers, who influence the flavour and chemistry of our national life probably more than any other single body of people, carry a responsibility no less crucial.

Yours truly,
IAN CURTEIS,
The Mill House,
Coln St Aldwyns,
Cirencester, Gloucestershire.
March 26.

The hidden earl

From the Chairman of English Heritage

Sir, Your Diary (March 25) and the letter from Catherine Hesketh (March 26) complain that the bust and portrait of Lord Iveagh have been effectively removed from public view at Kenwood. In fact the bust, although not on view on Sunday when the house reopened, can generally be seen in one of the fine Adam rooms on the first floor.

Unfortunately, Lord Iveagh's portrait was removed from the entrance hall by mistake. Since your reports appeared it has been replaced where it belongs.

Yours faithfully,
JOCELYN STEVENS,
Chairman, English Heritage,
23 Savile Row, W1.
March 29.

All in step

From Dr Robert M. Bruce-Chwatt

Sir, The suggestion by the Northern Ireland Police Authority (News in Brief, March 27) that the RUC should drop the oath of allegiance to the Queen is one matter. The idea that they should then have a suffix while retaining the title Royal in their name is to have one's cake and eat it.

If one goes, both must go.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT M. BRUCE-CHWATT,
York Lodge,
1 York Road, Richmond, Surrey.
March 27.

Letters for publication should carry contact telephone numbers. We regret that we cannot accept letters by telephone but they may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5046.

Need for research in NHS reviews

From Dr C. F. Loughran

Sir, Generally, in medicine, changes in clinical practice — eg, the introduction of a new drug — are only sanctioned following extensive clinical trials; carefully constructed studies are undertaken and the data reviewed with extensive use of statistical analysis. Strangely, this tenet of good medical practice appears commonly dispensed with when service reviews in the NHS are undertaken.

The latest is the Audit Commission review of accident and emergency services (report, March 7). This suggests that units with less than 50,000 attendances per annum (two thirds of all A&E departments) should be considered for closure. Such changes potentially have a profound effect on patient care. Most worryingly, the scientific evidence for the changes proposed by the Audit Commission is essentially non-existent.

The Royal College of Surgeons proposed in 1988 that A&E services be reorganised on lines similar to that of the major trauma centres in the US. A recent Sheffield University medical care research study, comparing a unit based on these lines (at Stoke) with conventional units (at Hull and Preston), was unable to demonstrate any convincing benefit. What may appear to be self-evident on initial review is not always shown to be the case in practice.

In these days of "evidence-based medicine" isn't it time that more exacting research should precede the essentially unscientific assumptions proposed by bodies like the Audit Commission before wholesale changes in healthcare delivery are even proposed?

Yours faithfully,
C. F. LOUGHRAN,
148 Prestbury Road,
Macclesfield, Cheshire.
March 22.

Crossword times

From Mrs G. M. Watt

Sir, Well done the 51 per cent of solo competitors who completed the Manchester Regional Final of the *Times* Aberlour Crossword Championship within 30 minutes (report, March 27).

In my home the crossword was completed by 100 per cent of the entrants in six hours. I was the solo entrant.

Please confirm that the same conditions applied for the finalists as myself: two impromptu breaks to converse with double-glazing salesmen; brief discussion with Jehovah's Witnesses; exchange of pleasantries (and cash) with a charity collector; break to prepare and cook dinner; chauffeur duties for children to various venues; and momentary panic when I thought the ding dong of the bell meant it was all over but, no, it was a lady selling cosmetics.

Given these circumstances, didn't we all do well!

Yours faithfully,
G. M. WATT,
48 Dernier Road, Tonbridge, Kent.
March 29.

From Mrs Mary Matthews

Sir, I see that so far in your crossword championship the solo competitors have done much better than the pairs. Two heads, it seems, are not better than one.

Yours faithfully,
MARY MATTHEWS,
38 Greenbank Close,
Hempstead, Gillingham, Kent.
March 27.

Curse of Glencoe

From Dr I. A. Olson

Sir, The late and greatly missed Sir Iain Moncreiffe of that Ilk, then Albany Herald, assured me that the nine of diamonds (letters, March 16, 25) *is* known as the "curse of Scotland" precisely because it *was* the armorial device of the evil genius behind the Glencoe massacre, the Master of Stair.

As his ancestor, Sir Thomas Moncreiffe of that Ilk, signed for the compensation payments from the Scottish Treasury to the surviving victims, who could have known better?

Yours faithfully,
IAN OLSON,
20 Burns Road, Aberdeen.
March 25.

In the chair

From Mr J. R. S. Bell

Sir, Mr Scott (letter, March 27; see also letter, March 23) does not like the terms chair or convenor and suggests a barbarous novelty, presider. Is president not the word he is searching for?

If this is too grand what about that other Scots synonym, moderator, which does describe a good chairman's function?

On the other hand if he is fed up with all Scoticisms he could revert to his local patois and address the chair by the equivalent English word "guv'nor" (or "governess" if the occupant felt that more fitting) defined in my dictionary as, inter alia, a contrivance for regulating the flow of gas.

Yours faithfully,
J. R. S. BELL,
7 Heriot Row, Edinburgh.
March 28.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 30: The Prince Edward today visited Cumbria and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant (Mr James Cropper).

His Royal Highness, Director, Outward Bound Trust, this morning visited Outward Bound Ullswater.

The Prince Edward, Chairman, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Special Projects Group, this afternoon attended "Survival", the Special Projects Challenge for 1966, at Greystoke Castle, near Penrith.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
March 30: The Duke of Kent, Honorary President, the Royal Geographical Society, this morning arrived at Gatwick Airport from Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

Captain Marcus Barnett was in attendance.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
March 31: The Duchess of Kent, Patron, this afternoon attended the Final of the BBC Young Musician of the Year Competition at the Symphony Hall, Birmingham, West Midlands, and was met on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of West Midlands (Mr Robert Taylor).

Birthdays today

Miss Brigitte Askonas, immunologist, 73; Mr George Baker, actor, 65; Mr Cynog Dafis, MP, 58; Mr David J. Davies, chairman and chief executive, Johnson Matthey, 56; the Rev Norman Drummond, Scottish governor, BBC, and chairman, Broadcasting Council for Scotland, 44; Mr Alex Falconer, MEP, 56; Professor R. Floud, Provost, London Guildhall University, 54; Sir Anthony Gill, former chairman and chief executive, Lucas Industries, 66; Mr David Gower, cricketer, 39; Sir Nicholas Henderson, diplomat, 77; the Earl of Ilchester, 76; Baroness McFarlane of Llandaff, 70; Professor M.L. McGlashan, chemist, 72; Mr Justice Macpherson of Cluny, 70; Mr John Murdoch, director, Courtauld Institute Galleries, 51; Professor Sir Dimitri Obolensky, Russian and Balkan historian, 78; Mrs Marie Patterson, trade unionist, 62; Mr Charles H. Price, II, American diplomat, 65; Mr Steve Race, musician and broadcaster, 75; Dr R.C. Repp, Master, St Cross College, Oxford, 60; Miss Sheila Whitaker, director, London Film Festival, 60; Mr Dafydd Wigley, MP, 53; Professor Sir Dillwyn Williams, former president, Royal College of Pathologists, 67.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: William Harvey, physician, discoverer of the circulation of the blood, Folkestone, 1578; Abbé Prévost, novelist, Hesdin, France, 1697; Saloman Gessner, painter and poet, Zurich, 1730; William Mulready, painter, Ennis, Co Clare, 1786; Prince Otto von Bismarck, Chancellor of Germany 1871-90, Schönhausen, 1815; Sir Truby King, pioneer of mothercraft, New Plymouth, New Zealand, 1858; Ferrucio Busoni, pianist and composer, Empoli, Italy, 1866; Edmond Rostand, dramatist, Marseilles, 1868; Lon Chaney, actor, Colorado Springs, California, 1883; Dame Cicely Courtneidge, actress, Sydney, New South Wales, 1893.

DEATHS: John Langhorne, poet, Blaydon, Somerset, 1779; Ferenc Molnár, dramatist, New York, 1952; Max Ernst, Surrealist painter, Paris, 1976; Marvin Gaye, singer, shot by his father, Los Angeles, 1984.

The Territorial Army, a force of volunteer soldiers mainly for home defence, was formed in Britain, 1908.

The RAF was formed, absorbing the Royal Flying Corps, 1918.

American forces invaded Okinawa, 1945.

The US launched its first weather satellite, 1960.

Nature notes

SOME redwings are heading back to Iceland and Scandinavia, but there are still many flocks of these small thrushes in hedges and field-side trees. They keep up a long, babbling song, but will flit away when disturbed, revealing the red splash under their wings.

Waxwings from the great winter invasion are also still to be found feeding on berry-bearing shrubs in many parts of the country: they are tamer than the redwings, and allow close views.

The cold winds are keeping back the common summer visitors such as willow warblers and yellow wagtails, but the first wandering hoopoes and returning ospreys have been recorded.

The winds are also holding back the new leaves on the trees, but the green sycamore buds and the cross-hatched hornbeam buds are poised to open. There are dark pink flowers like fluffy buttons on those elm trees that survived Dutch elm disease.

On the sallow bushes, the male catkins are turning gold as the pollen develops. Large flowers are open on the roadside dandelions: their long roots can tap water deep in the earth. Marsh marigolds, or kingcups, are unfolding their first shiny yellow flowers on the muddy edges of lakes.

DJM

The hoopoe: visitor from north Africa

Service dinners

71st Yeomanry Signal Regiment
The Earl of Limerick, Honorary Colonel, and the Officers of the 71st Yeomanry Signal Regiment dined out the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel S.P. Foakes, on Saturday at Longmoor. Major W.S. Sampson presided.

Mahar Regiment
Former officers of the Mahar Regiment and their ladies held their annual reunion dinner on Saturday at the Mill House Hotel, Ashington, West Sussex. Major E. Stanley-Jones presided. Lieutenant-Colonel Peter Middleton also spoke.

No 1 Air Control Centre
Officers of No 1 Air Control Centre marked the units first year of reformed service with a dinner held on Saturday at RAF Boulmer. Wing Commander E.A. Harris presided.

Duologue

Byron Society
Mr John Barton, Director of the Royal Shakespeare Company, held a duologue with the Byron Society on Friday night at the Royal Institution of Great Britain. Dr Peter Cochran of Cambridge University presided. Mrs Louise Belson, Mr John Carlisle, Mr Michael Foot, Lord Gilmour of Craigmillar and Lady (Michele) Renouf also spoke.

Framework Knitters' Company

The following have been installed as officers of the Framework Knitters' Company for the ensuing year:
Master, Mr Thomas Munro Fraser: Upper Warden, Mr Robert Brian Osborne; Under Warden, Mr David John Goodenday.

Furniture Makers' Company

The following have been elected officers of the Furniture Makers' Company for the ensuing year:
Master, Mr H. P. Joscelyne: Senior Warden, Mr C. E. F. Brett: Junior Warden, Mr C. T. A. Hammond.

Company of Merchant Adventurers of the City of York

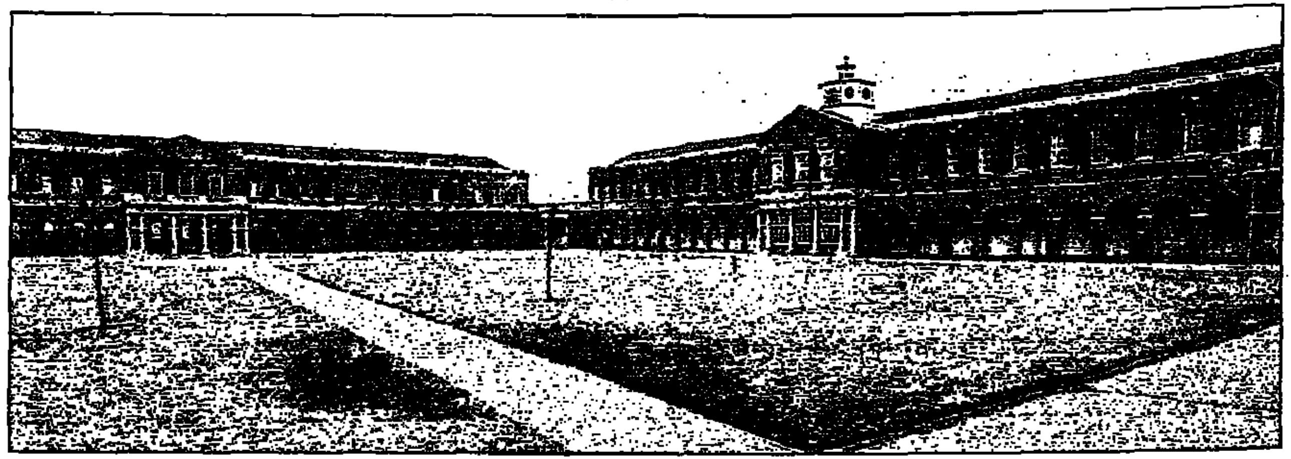
The following have been elected officers of the Company of Merchant Adventurers of the City of York for the ensuing year:
Governor, Mr Christopher Hall: Deputy Governor, Mr Colin Shepherd: Senior Warden, Mr Ashley Burgess: Junior Warden, Mr Lindsay Mackinlay.

Cancer Research Campaign

The Cancer Research Campaign has appointed Professor Gordon McVie as its new Director General. He takes over today from Mr David de Peyer, who retires after 12 years with the leading charity. Dr Trevor Hince becomes Scientific Director.

Church news

Latest appointments include:
Canon Dr Peter Crick, Priest-in-Charge, Coniscliffe with Piercebridge and Bishop's Adviser in Continuing Ministerial Education (Durham), to be also acting-director of post-ordination training, same diocese. He succeeds Canon Ronald Coppin.
The Rev John Day, Team Vicar, Langley Parish Team Ministry (Oxford), to be Chaplain to St Peter's Convent, Woking, and Warden of St Columba's, Woking (Guildford).
The Rev Janice Fox, Curate, Tupsley and Hampton Bishop, Hereford, to be diocesan ecumenical officer and Priest-in-Charge, St George, Orleton, and Brimfield (Hereford).
The Rev Catharine Furlong to be Priest-in-Charge, Brington with Molesworth, Old Weston and Leighton Bromswold (Ely).
The Rev Peter Garland is now Chaplain to Farnborough College (Guildford).
The Rev George Harris to be Priest-in-Charge, Lyons, Easington Lane (Durham).


The old Royal Navy Hospital at Great Yarmouth, which is being converted into private houses and flats

Homely touch for Nelson hospital

By Marcus Binney and Rachel Kelly

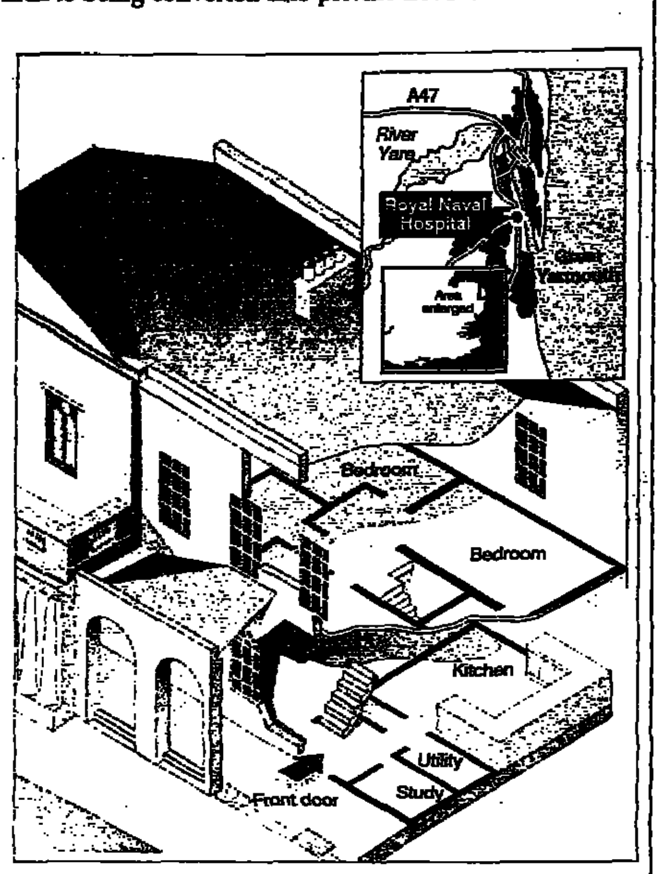
AFTER standing empty for several years, the large Regency hospital at Great Yarmouth, built to serve the Eastern Squadron on Nelson's instructions, and laid out round a beautiful courtyard, is to be reborn as 62 private houses and flats.

The hospital, built on reclaimed sand dunes in 1809 and designed by Sir Henry Pilkington, has been acquired by the entrepreneur Kit Martin. The first six houses went on sale last week.

After the Napoleonic Wars, the hospital was turned into a cavalry barracks and more recently into a hospital again until 1993. The building is listed Grade II. Most of the dwellings, ranging in price from £30,000 to £120,000, overlook the main square.

Mr Martin says: "The hospital divides easily into a series of terrace houses with front doors under the arcades and private gardens at the back. We have demolished a vast complex of ugly modern additions and returned it to its Regency appearance. The public will be able to walk into the hospital courtyard, visit the chapel and the museum beneath the clock tower on regular open days."

The museum recreates an 18th-century hospital ward in the former clock tower. Mr Martin secured the Nelson collection of a local businessman Ben Burgess, now 93, who has been collecting Nelson memorabilia since his schooldays at Paston College, in North Walsham, Nelson's alma mater.



Latest wills

Latest estates include (net, before tax):

Norman Lawrence **Parsons**, of Shinfield, Berkshire	£1,703,376
Douglas Kenneth **Porter**, of Weymouth, Dorset	£519,949
James **Purvis**, of St Saviour, Jersey	£868,162
Petronella Johanna **Quirk**, of Guildford, Surrey	£644,905
Eileen Mary **Rae**, of Wadebridge, Cornwall	£713,587
James William **Rae**, of Aspatria, Cumbria	£693,414
Rachel Beatrice **Reckitt**, of Rodhuish, Somerset	£644,638

Airmen of ill-fated raid recalled

THE eight crew members of an RAF Lancaster bomber who died when it crashed into a Berkshire airfield 52 years ago after one of the worst nights for Bomber Command were remembered yesterday.

The bomber was one of 26 of 101 Squadron that took off from Ludford Magna in Lincolnshire for a mass raid on Nuremberg on March 31, 1944. But there was no cloud and 300 German night fighters pounced on planes silhouetted by the bright moon.

More than 500 RAF air crew were killed and 60 bombers were shot down by the time the target was reached. The Lancaster "X for X-ray" made it back to England but crashed on the edge of RAF Welford, near Newbury, then an American base.

Recent investigation has revealed that the aircraft was the 101st bomber lost that night. Welford later became the base from which the 101st American airborn division flew into occupied Europe.

The crew members were Canadian and Australian and the untraced pilot came from Forest Gate, east London.

A memorial was dedicated at the ceremony yesterday at Welford, which was attended by past and present members of 101 Squadron and a US colour party.

Institution of Civil Engineers

The following candidates have been admitted to corporate membership, associate membership and technician membership of the Institution of Civil Engineers following the autumn 1995 session of professional reviews:

Corporate membership

Abdel-Hadi E E Z, Acton C R (*), Adams M D, Adeyemo A N, Aggus S R, Ahmed M U, Al-Hashimi M M A, Allan S M, Alloub H H M, Anderson P S, Andrew J M, Armstrong N T, Armstrong P M, Atkins C S, Baker A G, Baker M L, Bald I J R, Baldwin P K, Barnes M R, Barton I, Bates H F, Barry S F, Beaumont R J, Beck R M, Beevers M D C, Bell J, Bellerby B, Bennett R J, Bentley J R, Bevan T L, Bhatti S M, Blanek T J, Biddulph G N D, Bishop K N, Boddy D J, Breingan M, Browne R C, Bullen N, Bullivant J P L, Burdett F M S, Burgess C S, Burke J, Burnett I W, Burnett M.

Cargill P I, Carty B D, Cassidy J A, Chadwick J R, Chadwick N C, Chapman D N, Charlesworth P J, Clemits R J, Cochrane I, Conn G M, Corbett P R, Coupe J F, Cox A C I, Cruickshank I C, Cunningham R A, Dakin J M, Davidson P F, Dedic M, Delap M, Dewson A J, Dhanda D S, Doherty M J, Downie S J, Duggins A R, Dunn S C, Dunthorne S J, Evans P F, Faragher E, Fisher R, Flather A N, Forman P E, Fotheringham P D, Fox M P, Froggatt S J, Gallagher R D, Garner J C, Gates A R, Gedman J A (RRHMP), Gill I A, Glass B H, Gold C A, Goodwin A K, Grayson M, Green R S, Griffiths S C.

Hackett R D, Hall I L, Harrison A, Harvey L J, Hay A H, Hay D A, Hayes T S, Held S L, Heron W, Herron S, Hicks M J, Hiley G S, Hill A J R, Hill S J, Hillier R P, Hillman P E J, Honnywill T D, Hooper A J, Howell C, Howell J H, Howie C A, Hughes D S, Hughes M P, Hupton P M, Hussey I C, Jackson B, Jeffery A R, Jenkins A L, Johnson D P, Johnston R A, Jones M J, Jones V H, Joshua M K, Kent M P, King J D, Kirby A M, Kirker G, Kirkup P J, Knight J E, La Trobe-Bateman A F J, Lafferty M C, Lamb S E, Lamble S D, Lancaster M J, Larkin J P, Latif A N, Leeper S J, Leone G R, Lewis R G, Logue J, Lowther K, Lunn B D, Lynch S, Lyons R F.

MacDonald A N, Mac Donald G L, Mac Lean E D M, Mac Nicol G K, Mahmood A T, Manclark I W, Manton C I (*), Markham C R, Marrison K, Mason P R (*), Mason P D, Mason S K, Masood T, Mayles R D, Mc Goran J J (*), Mc Gowan R, Mc Intyre N R, Mc Kay P D, Mc Kenzie A, Mc Laren R A, Mc Phee J M, Mills N P, Mitchinson A J, Mooney S M, Moore P L, Morgan D I, Morrison A M, Mortimer A K, Mutsuddi R, Newton C R, Nicholson R K H, Nokhasteh S, Norman K, Odgers M J, Oliver L J, Owen E W, Owen I.

Parkinson S, Payne B A, Payne R C, Peal A J, Pearce P G, Penrice D J, Peters M, Phelan A W, Philips W, Pilbrow A H J, Pinder H L, Pitman S J, Pittner C, Polak C G, Posties D J, Premachandra A (*), Rabin N P, Radukic B, Ramshaw C L (*), Rawson I G, Redwood D A, Reef A M, Reid P, Rennison M, Restall P A, Reynolds C J, Rice G, Richards D G, Ritchie G G, Roberts M P, Robertson S A, Robinson P (*), Robinson N A, Rocca W N, Rogers C, Rush A G, Rutherford G S, Sagar N J P, Saleh T A A, Sawar N A, Scott C W, Scott M J, Scott W T, Seaton G, Sharp J C G, Shaw S M, Shears N D, Shelton R N, Sidley M R, Smith P J (RRHMP), Smith A H, Smith C C, Smith J K, Smith M A A, Smith P D, Smith R K, Smyth W U, Sothern P E, Soutar D J (*), Southall M J H, Spence J D M, Steaton J V, Steedman P R, Stevens P C, Strachan D C, Strange J, Sutcliffe S G.

Tase V S, Taylor G R, Taylor S E, Thomas C M, Thompson A J, Thomson A J, Threlfall D M W, Tresidder M E, Turner J B (*), Ubiaro P, Valentine C F A, Vidjak H D, Walker P A (*), Walton-Knight M P, Ward A P, Wardley D P, Wardrop S A, Wassermann J R, Watkins I C, Watson C J, Weatherley J M, Weir A J, Wells A J, Whetter D J, White K, White P, White S, Whiteley I R, Whittington S J, Williams R J (RRHMP), Williams J, Wilson D M, Wilson J, Wilson W L, Worsfold M J, Wrixon D W, Young R A.

Associate Membership

Agwu-Jones F S, Al-Habib A A R, Ataie A, Baker D G, Barlow D, Bettney M P, Bough E J, Briggs D C, Capes D, Chaney A P, Chitty N J (RRHMP), Civert R J, Cordingley M R, Crossland I, Davison J W H, Dibben S G, Douglas J E, Drew S T, Duff B J, Elphick W G, Finnon D A, Flanagan J, Frost S, Frost T J, Fryer M J (*), Gilmore M R, Gregg G R (*), Gregson D J, Gwynne A G, Hamilton J E, Hedges C L, Hoar J, Hodgkin I A, Hussey C J, Hutchings M J, Hyams S P, Imeson E M (*).

Jones D M, Jones W J, Kiernan B, Kingwell T C, Kirkpatrick J D, Koscian R A, Laurent R J, Lissimore N E (*), Marshall J J B, Mitchell A, Mitchell J, Nicol C J, Oates M P, Paget G P R, Peacock G L, Phillips K, Rajkovic P, Rawson K, Reeves P M, Robins J A, Rogers S L, Sinclair D, Smith D J (*), Stempfer D A, Stone H R, Sturt M R, Taylor M A, Taylor R J, Thomas D P, Thompson F, Viveash H S (*), Wentworth G, Wilson E C, Winfield A J.

Technician Membership

Anderson C J, Armitage D, Bamfield P S, Bartlett A E, Bathgate S G, Boswell R E, Cockburn M, Denyer S H, Evans M J, Fernandes A G B, Gardiner N, Garrity P, Gimblett C C, Gray D C, Hage P A, Hammond R T, Harris J C, Hiddleston J, Irvine F J, Job D G, Knight W F R, Lewis A J, Ley A J, Ley N E, Little D A, Mac Kenzie R W, Mac Lean S D, Mc Geever P A, Miller G, Ogg G A, Petersen P J, Pugh D K, Ralph J A D, Redpath C J, Rudd J N, Russell S A, Sheridan P F J, Smith K, Smith P, Tester D, Tickle S A, Welch B W, Wheeldon R F, Wynne S.

RRHMP denotes those candidates who have won the Renée Redfern Hunt Memorial Prize and (*) denotes those candidates who were commended on the standard of the essay or written test that they achieved.

Forthcoming marriages

**Mr A.E. Leonard
and Miss S.I. Taylor**
The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Mr and Mrs A.F. Leonard, of Croydon, Cambridgeshire, and Samantha, daughter of Mr and Mrs R.W. Taylor, of Downpatrick, Co Down.

**Mr J.C. Watkins
and Miss C.F. Richardson**
The engagement is announced between John Charles, elder son of Mr and Mrs B.J. Watkins, of Moor Park, Hertfordshire, and Catherine Frances, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs J.J.P. Richardson, of Ascot, Berkshire.

**Mr J.P. Wheatley
and Miss A.L.J. Froud**
The engagement is announced between John, second son of Brigadier and Mrs Robert Wheatley, of Andover, Hampshire, and Annabel, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs David Froud, of Lexden, Colchester, Essex.

**Mr C.R.V. Wildblood
and Miss S.C. Smith**
The engagement is announced between Christopher, son of Mr and Mrs Richard Wildblood, of Tutbury, Staffordshire, and Sophie, youngest daughter of Mr Rex Smith, of Colle sur Loup, France, and Mrs Jean Walker, of Ashford Carbonel, Shropshire.

School news

Stowe School

Stowe School announces the following awards for 1996:
Academic Exhibition: Christopher Turner, Davenies, Beaconsfield.
Humanities Exhibition: Alexander Wilson, Summer Fields, Oxford.
Music Scholarships: Jonathan Witt, Maidwell Hall, Northampton: Jaime Zaldua, Ashfold, Aylesbury.
Music Exhibition: Thomas Kemble, Beachborough, Brackley.
Top Art Scholarship: Oliver Weston, West Hill Park, Fareham.
Art Scholarships: Edward Kaye, Moulsford, Oxon; Henry Leon, Tower House, London.
Art Exhibitions: Charles Archer, Rokeby, Kingston upon Thames: William French, Heath Mount, Hertford.
C.D.T Exhibition: Theodore Turner, Cheltenham Jnr, Cheltenham.
Roxburgh Awards: Andrew Daniels, Bishop Stopford, Kettering; Edward Post, Winchester House, Brackley; Nicholas Oldridge, Sunningdale, Berkshire; Hugo Rebbeck, Sussex House, London; Max Willcocks, Papplewick, Ascot.
Roxburgh Exhibitions: Jeremy Bodian, St Edmund's, Hindhead; James Schembri, Papplewick, Ascot; James Warington-Smyth, St Aubyn's, Tiverton.
Sixth Form Scholarships: Joanna de Mille, Beaconsfield High, Beaconsfield; Yeo-Jung Park, Felixstowe International, Suffolk.
Sixth Form Exhibitions: Laura Humber, Akeley Wood, Buckingham; Alia Brahimi, St Christopher's, Bahrain.
Stephan Sixth Form Day Scholarships: Harry Gibson, Royal Latin, Buckingham; Sarah Parker, Akeley Wood, Buckingham; Joseph Townsend, Royal Latin, Buckingham.
Stephan Sixth Form Day Exhibition: Polly Viccars, Wychwood, Oxford.
Sixth Form Art Awards: Alexandra Alywen, Roedean, Brighton; Antonia Stocker, North Foreland Lodge, Basingstoke.
Sixth Form Roxburgh Awar' Daniel Pinna, Denbigh, Miltc Keynes.

Stowe School is a registered charity which exists for education.

Eton College

The Rev Charles Mitchell-Innes, Chaplain at Milton Abbey School, has been appointed Conduct and Senior Chaplain at Eton College from September 1, 1996.

Bedstone College, Shropshire

Bedstone College is pleased to announce the results of the recent Scholarship Examinations.
Academic Scholarship: Craig Winnall, Moffats.
Arts Scholarship: Owen Harris, Hereford Cathedral School.
All Rounder Award: Tom Elgon, Downs School, Colwall.
Music Scholarship: Joanna Daborn, Moffats.
Choral Scholarship: Becky Ford, Moffats.
11 Plus Scholarship: Lisa Caradus, Peter Avison, Bedstone College Preparatory School.
Closed Scholarship: Heather Laycock, Bedstone College.

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BIRTHS

BECKER - On 19th March at Kingston Hospital, to Penelope (née Smallbone) and Timothy, a son, a brother for Frederick.

COPPEL - Dina and Kevin are delighted to announce the birth of Daniel Marc Samuel on 24th March 1996 at The Portland Hospital.

COULTER - On 29th March 1996 at King George's Hospital, Ilford, Essex, to Anne and Lionel, a son, Lionel Junior.

FISHER - To Kay and Patrick on 28th March, Liberty Jean and Robin Carnegie Vavasseur, a brother and sister for Juliet, John, Pebbles, Suzie and Ben.

MACFARLANE - On 25th March 1996 at St Thomas' Hospital, to Janie and Alistair, a son, Henry.

MESTON - On March 29th to Elizabeth and William a daughter Louise Elizabeth, a sister for Dougall and Felix.

MILES - On March 26th at St Mary's, Paddington, to Suzie (née Chauveau) and Nicko, a daughter Sophy Arabella, a sister for Lucy and Katie.

PONSONBY - On 22nd March 1996, to Julian and Patricia (née Ingram), a son, George Thomas.

DEATHS

BROOKE - On March 28th, very peacefully, John, beloved husband of Jean, formerly of Amberley, Glos. Dear brother of Phyllis Beatty. Only son of the late Capt. G.T. Brooke R.E. formerly of Haughton Hall, Shifnal, Shropshire. Enquiries to (01453) 872256.

CANHAM - Andrew who died on Saturday 23rd March, will be cremated with a brief ceremony at the South London Crematorium, Rowan Road, SW16 at 1 pm on Thursday 4th April 1996. Friends welcome. Donations to the British Diabetic Association.

DEATHS

CARLESS - On the 29th March at Holyport Lodge R/H Holyport, Maidenhead, Col. George Proctor (Bill) late Royal Marines aged 92. Devoted and much loved husband of Dorothy, father of Richard and Jeremy, grandfather and great grandfather.

ERDOZAIN - Eugene aged 87 on March 29th in hospital in Blackburn. Dearly loved husband of Jean, father of the late Eugene and of Mimi George and Alastair. Much loved grandfather and great grandfather. Requiem Mass at St Peter's, Stonyhurst on Wednesday 3rd April at 12.00 noon.

FANNING-EVANS - Elizabeth, peacefully on March 29th after long illness bravely borne. Beloved wife of the late Claude Fanning-Evans, Major, Durham Light Infantry. Funeral at St Tegfan's Church, Llandegfan, Anglesey, on Thursday April 4th 2 pm. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to R.N.L.I. (Menai Bridge Branch) via L. Randall of Thomas Roberts & Co., Trefnant, Chapel Street, Menai Bridge, Anglesey (01248-712478).

GRIFFITHS - Bill on March 29th peacefully at home after a courageous fight against cancer. Beloved husband of Joan, loving father of Michael and David, dear father-in-law of Karen and Sue and a devoted grandfather. Service at United Reformed Church, Gerrards Cross, 2.30 pm Thursday 4th April, followed by committal at Amersham Crematorium. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to Roy Castle Cause for Hope Foundation c/o Arnold Funeral Service, Gerrards Cross, SL9 8BR, tel: (01753) 891892.

DEATHS

JENKINS - W. Blenyth. On March 29 peacefully in hospital after a period of illness. Cremation at Guildford crematorium, Thursday April 4 at 10.30am. No flowers but any donations to the Friends of St Thomas's Hospital c/o Gorringe J. & Son 55 Hare Lane, Farncombe, Godalming, Surrey. Enquiries G. Bagley 48 Farncombe Street, Farncombe, Surrey GU7 3LJ. 01483 428982.

POWNALL - On March 29th 1996, bravely in London, Gladys "Marsie" (née Hughes) aged 80 years. Beloved wife of Norman, adored mother of Norma, Rod and mother-in-law of Meg, loving grandmother of David and Lil. Funeral Service at Putney Vale Crematorium on Wednesday 3rd April at 2.45 pm.

RIX - Frederick Thomas Rix DFC died peacefully on 27th March 1996 at Barnet. Beloved husband of Olive, father and grandfather.

THISTLETHWAITE - On March 29th Austin Roberts peacefully in Plymouth aged 91 years. Very dearly loved husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather and friend, son of Austin Richard Thistlethwaite and Alice Dorothea (née Roberts). All enquiries please to Walter Parson, Salisbury House, St Judes, Plymouth PL4 8PJ, tel: (01752) 665438.

THORNTON - On 28th March, 1996 peacefully, Philip Charles. Much loved husband, father and grandfather. Funeral service at Burrswood, Groombridge on Wednesday, 3rd April at 3.00 p.m. Family flowers only. Donations to the Dorothy Kerin Trust or Cancer Research c/o Paul Bysouth Funeral Services, Crowborough. Tel. (01892) 655000.

DEATHS

WORMALL - John died on March 28th 1996. Funeral service to be held at St Peter's Church, Brooke, Norwich on Thursday April 4th at 2.30 pm. Family flowers only please, but donations for the R.N.L.I. and Imperial Cancer Research may be sent C/O Peter Taylor Funeral Services, 85 Unthank Road, Norwich NR2 2PE.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Court & Social Page
Over the Easter period the following deadline will apply:
All notices to appear on Friday April 5; Saturday April 6; Monday April 8; Tuesday April 9 must be received in writing by 5pm on Wednesday April 3.
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

REUNION for all past pupils and staff of St. Catherine's School, Bexleyheath on September 21st 1996. Answerphone 0181 850 3788.

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OBITUARIES

HUGH FALKUS

Hugh Falkus, angler, author and film-maker, died on March 30 aged 78. He was born on May 15, 1917.

ONE of the great figures of 20th-century angling, Hugh Falkus was also a naturalist and film-maker of international repute. He was, moreover, a restless and iconoclastic figure who had the stature and looks of a *Boys Own Paper* hero, and he lived a life to match.

Hugh Edward Lance Falkus, son of James Everest Falkus and Alice Musgrove, was born into a modestly comfortable family during a zeppelin raid over Surrey. He lived the life of a free spirit in boyhood, mostly in the Devon and Essex outdoors with a rod or a gun in his hand. He caught his first fish when he was four, learnt to shoot when he was six and had become an expert helmsman before reaching 15.

By 18 he had learnt to fly, by 19 he had entered the first of four marriages and by 20 he was in the Royal Air Force. Headstrong and brilliant, he had many brushes with death, not least because as a pilot he had the habit of performing aerobatics in everything he could climb into — including bombers, which he both barrel-rolled and looped.

His most amazing escape came in more serious circumstances. In 1941, by now a Spitfire pilot, he was scrambled to intercept enemy bombers. Falkus shot down two and was so intent on finishing off a third he had already hit that he ran out of fuel over France. He fell into German hands wearing only pyjamas under his flying suit. The SS interrogated him, concluded because of his unconventional dress that he was a spy, beat him up and decided to execute him.

Falkus was stood against a wall and a firing squad, rifles at the ready, was facing him. A trout began to rise in a stream alongside and Falkus decided, in what he expected to be his last moments, to concentrate all his attention on that. Before the order to fire could be given a car swept up, a Wehrmacht major-general got out, barked a few questions and then bundled Falkus into the rear seat and drove away. It turned out that he had been educated in England. That night Falkus drank champagne through broken teeth before military formality reasserted itself and he was taken to a prison camp.

Four grim years followed in camps in France, Poland and Germany. Falkus made numerous attempts to escape. He worked on 13 tunnels, including the famous Wooden Horse tunnel, finally breaking out and getting back to England ten days before the war ended. Soon afterwards his marriage broke up.

The years as a PoW had left a deep mark. Falkus resolved that "no one else is going to give me another order, no one is going to shout at me again". He freelanced for the rest of his life. For three years he worked as an actor and director in repertory, using skills he had developed on entertainment committees in the prison camps. Then he found work principally with the BBC.

By 1949 he was presenting live television from Alexandra Palace, writing and narrating for radio — and fishing, sailing, shooting and flying whenever he could. It was about this time that he had another narrow escape. A novice pilot froze at the controls beside him and flew their RAF Reserve trainer into the ground. The aircraft was destroyed, but Falkus and the novice walked away unscathed.

In 1950 he began to make documentary films for cinema and television. *Drake's England* appeared within a year and *Shark Island* followed in 1952. It was during the making of the latter that tragedy struck and Falkus cheated death yet again. Far from land off Ireland's west coast, the small boat he was using was hit by a squall and went down. His new wife of six months and three crewmen were lost. Falkus swam for eight hours to the shores of Achill Island before being found by fishermen. He was the only survivor.

Falkus continued with films, married Lady Margaret Vane-Tempest-Stewart, daughter of the 7th Marquess of Londonderry, and for some time, while still working, lived the high life. He was later to recall catching 23 salmon before breakfast (one imagines breakfast was late, that day) and shooting 93 pheasants with 100 cartridges in a single stand. He also sailed a great deal and raced against Morgan Giles, Peter Scott and Uffa Fox.

In 1958 his third marriage ended and he married Kathleen Armstrong, his wife of 38 years. With Kathleen, a warm and down-to-earth Cumbrian farmer's daughter, he found himself in a settled home overlooking the River Esk in the Borders and his life took on a greater stability. He made several films for the BBC's natural history unit and narrated many programmes made by others, including all 40 episodes of *The Undersea World of Jacques Cousteau*.

In the 1960s he formed a long and successful working relationship with Professor Niko Tinbergen, the Nobel Prize-winning specialist on animal behaviour. They made a string of ground-breaking wildlife films together. *Signals for Survival* (1969) won the Italia Prize and the American Blue Ribbon. *The Gull Watchers*, *The Sign Readers*, *The Beachcombers*, *The Riddle of the Rook* (Venice Film Festival, 1972) and *The Tender Trap*, an astonishing study of carnivorous plants, all found wide international audiences. Two highly personal films, *Salmo, the Leaper* and the semi-autobiographical *Self-Portrait of a Happy Man* were even more successful. In 1982 the Royal Geographical Society awarded Falkus the Cherry Kearton Medal for his wildlife work.

There also were books. Falkus wrote a number, including *Signals for Survival* (again with Tinbergen); *Nature Detective*, a study of animal tracks and signs; and *The Stolen Years*, a vivid account of his early life. But it will be for his contribution to angling and angling literature, above all else, that Falkus is likely to be remembered.

With *Sea Trout Fishing*, first published in 1962 and greatly enlarged in 1975, Falkus erected one of the milestones on a path of literature that reaches back to Dame Juliana Berners and *A Treatyse of Fysshynge wyth an Angle*, published in 1496. Indeed, Dame Juliana was Falkus's only angling hero and he was collaborating on a book about her at the time of his death.

Falkus became fascinated by the sea trout, a migratory fish which, like the salmon, spends part of its life in rivers and part in the sea. Little was known about the fish at that time and mature sea trout were regarded as being virtually uncatchable. As a naturalist as well as an angler, Falkus had the background to begin from first principles. He studied the fish in the sea and in the river. He observed that in the sea the fish appeared to feed mostly at night, and set about developing ways in which its feeding responses could consistently be triggered once the fish had returned to fresh water, even though, for physiological reasons, it had stopped eating.

In *Sea Trout Fishing* Falkus proposed an entirely original, coherent and above all effective set of strategies based largely on night-time fishing with new kinds of lures fished in new kinds of ways. The book virtually invented a new kind of sport.

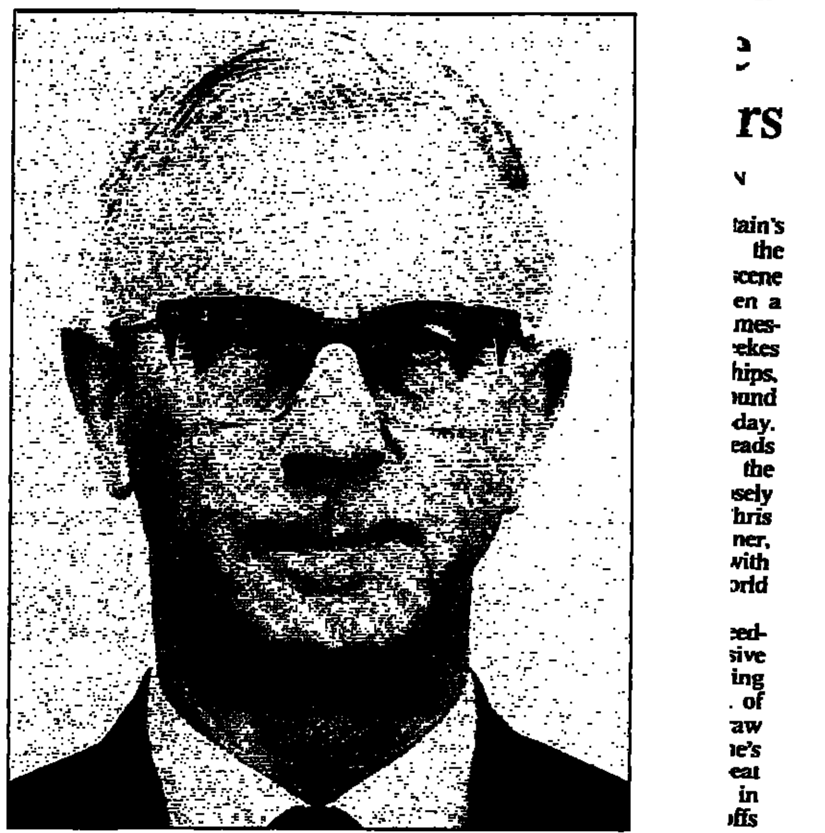
Fresh Water Fishing, a work of great scholarship written with his long-time angling collaborator Fred Buller, appeared in 1975. *Successful Angling*, with Buller, Walker, and Taylor, came in 1977. Then, among others, there appeared the monumental *Salmon Fishing* (1984) and *Spey Casting* (1994). Together they lifted Falkus to a position of pre-eminence in the huge and literate world of game angling.

By the time of his death, Falkus had the stature and reputation of an Old Testament prophet. He used his position from time to time to rail against commercialism in angling, against competitive fishing, which he regarded as demeaning for both man and fish, and against the growing tendency to release fish once caught because, he argued, to treat them so was to reduce them to the status of playthings. In his later years, he only ever shot or fished for what he or his friends could eat.

After his escape from prison camp, Falkus regarded time as the most precious of all life's commodities. He left unfinished an autobiography which was to be called *Some Of It Was Fun*.

Hugh Falkus is survived by his wife Kathleen, and by a son from a previous marriage.

PROFESSOR SIR CHARLES OATLEY



Sir Charles Oatley, OBE, FRS, Professor of Electrical Engineering, Cambridge University, 1960-71, died on March 11 aged 92. He was born on February 2, 1904.

CHARLES OATLEY was the pioneer who helped to reveal the vast potential of the scanning electron microscope. This microscope — probably the single most important scientific instrument developed since the war — worked by moving a fine beam of electrons over the surface of a specimen. The reflected electrons were then collected to produce startlingly realistic images of surfaces at a resolution far beyond that achieved by any optical microscope. Furthermore, there was no need to slice the samples, so a wide variety could be examined with little preparation.

The first commercial scanning electron microscope was produced in 1965 but acceptance of it was slow. Initially only a few were sold per year, and these were greeted in some quarters with indifference, even ridicule. However, by the early 1970s, the importance of these instruments was becoming widely recognised and today thousands of scanning electron microscopes are used in all fields of science and medicine. They are even used, following pioneering work in Oatley's group, for writing the patterns for microchips. Oatley's book, *The Scanning Electron Microscope* was published in 1972.

Charles William Oatley was born in Frome, Somerset, and educated at Bedford Modern School and St John's College, Cambridge, where he read Natural Sciences. Here he was the contemporary of many other eminent scientists and mathematicians including Sir John Cockcroft, Sir Nevill Mott, Sir William Hodge and Louis Leakey.

For a short time after graduation he worked in industry, concerning himself with problems of radio valve manufacture. But in 1927 he joined the staff of the physics department of King's College London, under E. V. Appleton, and remained there until 1939. In this period he published several papers on the problems of magnetrons and vacuum physics and wrote a useful little book, *Wireless Receivers*, that was read widely by enthusiasts.

Shortly before the outbreak of the Second World War, Oatley was invited to join the teams tackling the problems of army radar at the Radar Research and Development Establishment (RRDE). He worked first as officer in charge of basic research and then as deputy head under Cockcroft. When Cockcroft left the establishment to pursue the development of the atom bomb in the US, Oatley took over the entire technical direction. His interest in accurate measurement and instrumentation proved enormously important in the development of anti-aircraft radar. For his work at the RRDE he was appointed OBE in 1956.

In 1945 Oatley was invited by Trinity College, Cambridge, to take up one of the fellowships they had founded to strengthen the teaching of engineering. He was appointed to a lectureship in Electrical Engineering at the same time that E. B. Moullin was appointed to the newly founded chair in that subject. In 1954 Oatley was made Reader and in 1960, on the retirement of Moullin, he was elected to the professorship.

There was a complete difference in temperament between the two men. Moullin was essentially interested in his own research and was out of touch with problems of industrial interest. Oatley realised that university research should deal with real problems while complementing and not competing with industrial and government work. Though encountering a good deal of resistance from many of his colleagues, he introduced an electrical option (to meet the needs of students interested in electronics and electrical engineering) into the Engineering Tripos.

Oatley's interest in the scanning electron microscope was aroused by the work of von Ardenne in Germany and Zworykin in the US, although the scanning microscopes they built produced poor resolution and contrast and their results discouraged further research.

Oatley, working with his early research students, D. McMullan, K. C. A. Smith, T. E. Everhart and R. F. M. Thornley, reversed the situation and revealed the vast potential of the microscope.

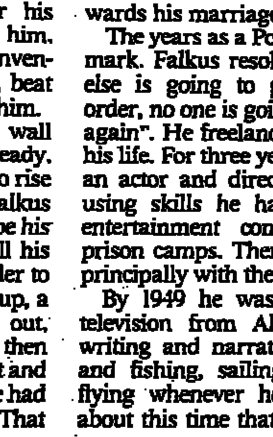
He retired from the Chair of Electrical Engineering in 1971, two years after he had been elected a Fellow of the Royal Society. He was knighted in 1974. In 1976 he became one of the founder fellows of what was to become the Royal Academy of Engineering and he was elected a foreign associate of the US National Academy of Engineering in 1979.

He was much loved by those with whom he worked and his 80th and 90th birthdays were celebrated with seminars organised by his research students who travelled from all over the world to present papers on their latest work. Oatley himself talked at these meetings, sustaining the clarity of expression and thought that had characterised his life's work.

He is survived by his wife Enid, whom he married in 1930, and by their two sons.

LADY LABOUCHERE

Lady Labouchere, author, artist and benefactor, died at Dudmaston, Shropshire, on March 22 aged 87. She was born on August 31, 1908.



Lady Labouchere, left, and Dudmaston Hall, near Bridgnorth, Shropshire

RACHEL LABOUCHERE was the last chatelaine of Dudmaston in south Shropshire, and one of the prime movers in the development of the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust. She had two distinct phases to her life: the first as the wife of a distinguished diplomat travelling the world; and the second as an academic, deeply interested in her family, the estate she inherited and the great enterprise of the famous industrial museum at Ironbridge, which was based on the work of her pioneering ironfounder Darby ancestors.

Rachel Katharine Hamilton-Russell (as she was until her first marriage) was born in London, the only child of the Hon Eustace Scott Hamilton Russell and his wife, Olive Mary Wolryche Whitmore. She was thus the descendant of a number of distinguished families: the Darbys of Coalbrookdale and the Christy Millers of Adcote, as well as the Wolryche Whitmores of Dudmaston. Her early life was dominated by visits to her relations, something which certainly enriched her later development.

Yet, like so many of her era, she received no formal education. She had wanted to go to Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, but the thought of a year's cramming discouraged her and she did not rediscover her love of history until later in her career. During the early part of the Second World War she worked in the Admiralty, where she met her second husband George Labouchere, subsequently to become, during his days in the Foreign Service, Sir George Labouchere.

It was her and her husband's original pact that she would follow him around the world as a diplomat's wife (he was posted successively to Sweden, China, Argentina, Austria, thence to be Ambassador in Brussels and finally in Madrid, from where he retired in 1966); but that thereafter, on his retirement, he would join her in her home county of Shropshire. Here she would be free to follow her interest in family history, and to give her encouragement to the two places of major importance in her life — the ancient family estate at Dudmaston and the Coalbrookdale of her Darby ancestors.

Dudmaston was owned by Geoffrey Wolryche Whitmore, an expert on forestry who had handed it over to his niece in 1962, seven years before his death. The estate had been in continuous family ownership since 1126. From the outset, Lady Labouchere (as she became on her husband's being knighted in 1955) had made an agreement with her Uncle Geoffrey that when she inherited the estate she would endeavour to have it handed over to the National Trust for permanent preservation. Throughout her time at Dudmaston she was very conscious of her responsibilities for the community of which Dudmaston was such an integral part.

Before she took it over the house was somewhat barren of contents, 19th-century sales of furniture and *objets* having rather cleaned it out. But Lady Labouchere brought to it her own collections gleaned from her Darby ancestors, including some 17th-century Dutch flower paintings; and from the Christy Millers of Adcote, Chinese porcelain and French furniture, she being the sole surviving descendant of both these families. For his part, Sir George contributed his modern art collection, mainly Paris School paintings and modern Spanish pictures.

The house was redecorated with great style in ambassadorial white, curtains made by Nina Campbell, then working for John Fowler. When eventually in 1978 the National Trust was given the estate, Rachel Labouchere was the one who guided the decisions on how the house should be arranged for visitors — with whom she was always keen to share her interests. Many of the items seen at Dudmaston reflect those interests. Topographical watercolours, botanical art, a museum explaining her family connections including Charles Babbage, the father of the computer who married a Whitmore ancestor. Recently she had been putting together displays of her court dresses and other clothes bought from well-known designers of the 1950s and 1960s, worn on the diplomatic circuit.

Lady Labouchere was a passionate gardener and had an abiding love of flowers. With her inheritance of flower paintings, she was a talented botanical artist, having trained with John Nash and Mary Grierson. In the garden at Dudmaston she cleared away some 19th and 20th-century flowerbeds, returning the house to more of its 18th-century serenity.

She and Sir George, however, did not look backwards. The gates she gave to her husband for their golden wedding anniversary are an inspired modern design by Tony Robinson; and they integrated other contemporary sculpture — by Tony Twentyman — in the garden. In recent years, through her motivation, a number of flower societies had their "days" at Dudmaston. In 1995 she was elected president of the Wakefield and North of England Tulip Society, the oldest surviving such society in the country.

At the same time as making all her improvements to Dudmaston, Lady Labouchere was helping to inspire the foundation of the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust, of which she was president for 16 years. She was responsible for the acquisition of Dale House, one of the Darby houses situated in Coalbrookdale which she acquired for the Ironbridge Gorge Trust to set up as a Quaker centre for education. She raided the attics at Dudmaston for suitable furniture for it and the other Darby house, Rose Hill next door. She also endowed a fund for staffing by volunteers.

Lady Labouchere wrote two books on the Quakers from family diaries which emphasised the significance of the Society of Friends to the origins of the Industrial Revolution (the Darbys were Quakers in the 18th and 19th centuries).

A political diary of Adelaide Whitmore is currently at the press and, at the time of Lady Labouchere's death, she was researching a book on Georgiana and Charles Babbage, a study of Elizabeth Tennyson (Alfred Lord Tennyson's favourite aunt who married another ancestor) and also researching the history of the Hamilton-Russell family.

For her work on family history, she was awarded an honorary LLD by Birmingham University in 1993. Her interest in historical research started when she worked in the archives in Madrid. The final result of this was that she gave an endowment in 1994 in honour of Sir George Labouchere to Oxford University for the purpose of advancement of Spanish studies. This provides an opportunity for young people to visit Spain to study Anglo-Spanish relations.

With the death of Lady Labouchere, the National Trust has lost one of its most generous friends, benefactors and donors. She gave Dudmaston to the National Trust because she wanted it to remain complete for ever and also to remain a living place.

Rachel Labouchere was twice married, first in 1930 to Malcolm MacGregor (marriage dissolved in 1940) and then in 1943 to Sir George, who survives her.

There were no children of either marriage.

Appointments in the Forces

Royal Navy and Royal Marines
CAPTAIN: P M Cheesman to Centurion, 4.6.96.
COLONEL: S P Hill to Staff of [illegible] as Brigadier, 1.10.96.
COMMANDER: P R Bishop to MoD London, 25.10.96; S J J Hall to Staff [illegible], 18.6.96; G P Ramsay to [illegible], 4.10.96; G E Rowell to USA, [illegible]; [illegible] Spalton to Northwood, [illegible].12.96; [illegible] Thorpe to MoD Bath.
SURGEON COMMANDER: A V [illegible] to CTCRM, 16.4.96.

Retirements
Capt: R W Pitchfield, 10.6.96; A S L [illegible]
[illegible] Bancroft, 10.6.96; M E C Brown, [illegible]; A D Dummer, 24.6.96; A S [illegible], 22.6.96; I G Milne, 1.6.96; J [illegible]
[illegible] J Rose, 1.6.96; A Yates, [illegible]
[illegible] G Iles, 22.6.96.
[illegible] Dobbin, 15.6.96.
Chaplain: A W Pudner, 18.6.96.

Provisional selections for promotion from October 1, 1996.

Special Duties List
Seaman
To [illegible]: W Easton; G P Bowen.
[illegible] N J Cooper; L Richmond; P [illegible] D J Evans; G K Jackson; R [illegible] Hutchinson; A Thorbur[illegible] W [illegible] Bergh.

Engineering
To Cdr: C C Leggett; D Reid.
To Lt Cdr: S W Gratton; J J Anderson; B R Evans; G J Goodings; T I Chamberlain; R D Ashton; H Bracher; D J Rook; M A Langmead; M R Peacock; I N Swanney; M J Buxton; V W Dobbin; I D Wood; D Galvin; S Rodgers; J A Mockford; K P Cooper; W C Fraser.

Supply and Secretariat
To Cdr: no selections.
To Lt Cdr: A J Olliver.

Instructor Specialisation
To Cdr: I A Yuill.
To Lt Cdr: S W Hartley; S A B Marston; J P E Dickson; P M C O'Brien; G Ashton Jones; T P Reynolds; J E H Tooley; R Clarke.

Female Non-Specialist Officers
To Cdr: M E J Hoath.
To Lieutenant Commander: P A Burgoine; J B D Whetton; I M Markowski.

Royal Marines
To Capt (SD): R T Cooper; J J White; J C Woods; S T Anderson; P R Collins; D A Greedus; A M Maher; P W Thomas.
To Capt (SD) (B): P J Rutterford.

Supply and Secretariat
To Cdr: M J Anderson.
To Lt Cdr: J W T Birdgeman; K M Aitken; R J Ewen; D F McGarel.

Medical Services
To Cdr: M Chandler.
To Lt Cdr: A Murphy; C J Lloyd; I C Coulton.

Supplementary List
Seaman
To Cdr: R A Doggett; D A Lord.
To Lt Cdr: G J Corbett; T A Conway; B R Meakin; M C Hibbert; K A Bishop; R D Creech; C Brown; P M Jefferson; R E Bickerton; R A Sykes; P R J Munro-Lott; J Walters; P R Hoper; D M Biggs; C M Webb; A A Attrill; P M Wilkinson; A S J Walsh; N P B Armstrong; S A Judd; C A Slocombe; N M Richardson; M A Salmon.

Engineering
To Cdr: W C Burgess.
To Lt Cdr: B L Hill; C D Lias.

The Army
BRIGADIER: G E Ratcliffe to RN Hospital, 1.4.96; W R Short to MoD, 9.4.96.
COLONEL: J M Arigho to Surg Gen, 1.4.96; The Hon S J T Coleridge to AG, 1.4.96; G C M Lamb to be OC 5 Airborne BDE HQ & Sig Sqn, 5.4.96; L P Lillywhite to DACOS HQ Land, 9.4.96; A H M MacMillan to be Comd Med 1 (UK) Armd Div & Sig Regt, 1.4.96; M J Ratcliffe to Surg Gen, 1.4.96; S J L Roberts to MoD, 5.4.96; M K Stretch to HQ Land, 1.4.96; I F G Whittington to Mil Svy, 1.4.96; R J York to Commander HQ 2 Div, 1.4.96.
LIEUTENANT COLONEL: C G J Bullough, ALS, to Shape, 1.4.96; The Hon I D W Chant-Sempill, Hldrs, to HQ Inf, 1.4.96; J S Douglas, R Irish, to MoD, 1.4.96; J B Duffus, RE, to JHQ, 1.4.96; N C Everard, 9/12 L, to 9/12 L, 2.4.96; R T Hoole, R Sigs, to JHQ, 1.4.96; K I F Lamb, REME, to HQ UKSC(G), 1.4.96; A P R Roberts, R Sigs, to MoD, 1.4.96; N T Start, RLC, to JHQ, 1.4.96; N D O Williams RE to HQ 42 (NW) BDE, 1.4.96.

Retirements
COLONEL: F T Adams, late RAMC, 4.4.96; J B Bennett, late RE, 4.4.96; J D E Edwards, late RADC, 12.4.96; D I Hardley, late RAMC, 7.4.96.

Royal Air Force
AIR COMMODORE: P Jeffers to PJ HQ, 7.4.96.
GROUP CAPTAIN: N A Bairsto to HQ STC, 1.4.96; P W Day to PJ HQ Northwood, 1.4.96; T McK Arnot to HQ PTC, 1.4.96; A J Pye to JP HQ Northwood, 1.4.96; D B Symes to PJ HQ Northwood, 1.4.96.
WING COMMANDER: M A Leakey to RAF Wittering, 11.3.96; N Williams to HQ PTC, 11.3.96; C C Edmonds to TTTE Cottesmore, 18.3.96; R Marston to EFT HQ UAC (EFT), 18.3.96; D Todd to HQ gg GP B Priory, 18.3.96; D Walker MA to Minister, 18.3.96; D F Maclean to Sultans Oman AF, 1.4.96; J W Spencer to RAF Wittering, 1.4.96; P A Turvill to RAF Marham, 1.4.96.

Retirements
Air Cdre: P M Stean, 2.4.96.
Gp Capt: M T Hodges, 2.4.96; C M Moore, 3.4.96; N G R James, 4.4.96; N M Evans, 5.4.96.

ON THIS DAY

April 1, 1911

Nice suffered badly by comparison with its more elegant neighbour in this review of the region, which included Valescure, "where they could build and build and never be noticed".

THE FRENCH RIVIERA

ITS CALMER ASPECTS

Nice, after a wild night of storm, basking between a purple sea and snow that stretches from the Alps to within a little way of Cimiez; Nice, seen from the mouth of the Var under the Southern moonlight — even Nice under ordinary conditions, white and clean and brilliant as she is, can almost persuade one to forgive her for the kind of third-rate gaiety which she flaunts.

A Casino where you play at *boule* (a debased *roulette*) for francs; a theatre where the waits are prolonged that the audience may go and play at *boule*; the pier and the promenade, the promenading crowds who look always at each other and never at the sea, the bustle, the night-long roar of the traffic, the aviation, the trotting-matches, the races, the balls, the hard work of pleasure — all this, you would say, could only be enjoyed by the quite young and active, if your eyes did not give you evidence that the very, very old, and even the very ill, found what they needed there. A few miles westward shady, flowery Cannes remembers that she owed her start in life to an Englishman.

Brougham, seeking distraction after the death of his daughter, found himself debarred from Italy by cholera, and, being quarantined in the port of Cannes, decided to stay where he was. Here he built a villa which he named after his daughter, Eleanore-Louise, and here he died.

More directly English in origin than any place (except possibly Hyères) on this coast, Cannes remains chiefly English in winter population and in character — select, proud, spacious, and far more easy-going than smart.

Her sea-front is still sandy (and muddy when it rains), not paved and esplanaded; and here stands the flower-market, and here sit the natives mending long fishing-nets of an extraordinary fineness.

True, here, too, is the Casino, where you can play at *boule* for francs; but you can also play baccarat like a gentleman, and feed extremely well, and Cannes's four-year-old Casino is so characteristic of herself, so pleasant, so comparatively quiet, and so spacious, that it does not strike a false note.

It will be a great pity if Cannes should ever try to imitate her gayer, less reputable cousin for Cannes is already as gay as any reasonable human being can desire, and her charm lies precisely in the proximity of that choice gaiety to the roomy peace of her villas and her pine-woods . . .

THE TIMES TODAY

MONDAY APRIL 1 1996

NEWS

Fears grow that Clarke may quit

■ *John Major is preparing for a showdown* this week with Kenneth Clarke over plans for a referendum on a single currency.

The meeting will come amid deepening anxiety in senior Tory circles that the Chancellor might resign if his strongly held objections are overruled. Either today or tomorrow, Mr Major will offer Mr Clarke a deal intended to swing him behind the firm view *in Downing Street and Conservative* Central Office that a referendum pledge is essential. ....**Page 1**

Plan to end water monopolies

■ Plans to cut bills and improve services to water consumers *will be announced by the Government. They* are designed to smash the monopoly enjoyed by the ten giant regional water companies and end pay, perks and profits excesses.......**Page 1**

Rail economy drive

Railtrack employees are to be told that using the train is putting a strain on its finances and that in future they should travel by road when on business. ....**Page 1**

University challenge

Oxford University's ancient structure is threatening its place as a *world-beating academic centre*, management consultants have said *in a report recommending* sweeping changes. ...... **Pages 1, 7**

Taking plastic

The day a barrister becomes a Queen's Counsel can now be preserved for posterity — in plastic................................**Page 1**

Thatcher book rift

A book by Carol Thatcher that *portrays her mother as distant* and terrifying and describes her *parents' relationship* as a partnership between two selfish people *was privately opposed* by Baroness Thatcher ....**Page 3**

Chernobyl scare

The Government offered expert help to analyse a spate of cancer cases on Benbecula in the Western Isles to see if they could be linked to fallout from Chernobyl ....**Page 5**

Piece-work spies

MI5 staff have been put on *performance-related* pay *to ensure* value-for-money intelligence-gat*hering. The* Armed Forces are also to adopt the system...**Page 6**

Warmed salmon

A decline in numbers of spring salmon in British rivers has been linked to global warming. **Page 7**

Alarming case

A man who lost antiques worth £200,000 in a burglary has reached an *out-of-court settlement* with the company that sold him *his burglar alarm.* Michael Clarke-Jervoise had filed a High *Court writ against* Chubb Alarms................................**Page 7**

Election test

Nominations close for local elections on May 2, when John Major will discover whether he has succeeded in rallying support to stay in Downing Street. ....**Page 8**

Chinese stop speech

Chinese security police raided a banquet and stopped Amy Tan, *the American writer, from making* a speech to raise funds for *Chinese orphans* ....**Page 9**

Bedroom hacker

American authorities are seeking the extradition of a 21-year-old Argentine computer hacker who managed to penetrate top secret US defence files from his Buenos Aires bedroom. ....**Page 10**

Chechen ceasefire

President Yeltsin moved to try to clear up the biggest political headache of his re-election campaign when he announced a ceasefire and partial troop withdrawal from Chechenia. .**Page 11**

Jesus was a Freemason, says book

■ Jesus was a Freemason and grandmaster of an ultra-conservative Jewish sect, according to a new book. *The Hiram Key* claims the passion narratives of the *New Testament* date from resurrection rituals of ancient Egypt and are enshrined in some of Freemasonry's secret initiation ceremonies. The book was dismissed by the Roman Catholic Church .... **Page 2**

JAMES MORGAN

Members of the Gloucestershire Integrated Youth Dance Company at last night's British Telecom Dance 96 event at the Royal Festival Hall, London. Five hundred young dance groups entered the nationwide competition, held before an invited audience

BUSINESS

More jobs: Unemployment in the UK *will continue to* fall and job prospects will improve, according *to ministers.* Gillian Shephard, the Employment and Education Secretary, is expected to paint a rosy picture when she speaks at the Group of Seven nations' new jobs summit in France .... **Page 40**

Merger talks: Financial advisers to British Telecom and Cable & Wireless are locked *in negotiations* over the proposed £35 billion merger *that will create one of the world's* largest telecom groups...... **Page 40**

Takeover fight: BET, the business services group, has forecast a 20 per cent increase in next year's dividend in an attempt to ward off the £1.9 billion hostile takeover bid from Rentokil.................... **Page 40**

ARTS

New art: First they gave us Rachel Whiteread and her Turner Prize-winning *House*. Now Artangel, the duo behind some of the most controversial visual art of the past few years, have another project up their sleeves..............................**Page 12**

Earning her tears: If anyone is entitled to make a claim to the *works of Brecht and Weill it is* Marianne Faithfull, as she proved *in her gig at the Jazz Café.* **Page 12**

New play: A lot of imagination has gone into Neil Bartlett and Nicolas Bloomfield's refreshingly original theatrical adaptation of David Garnett's short story, *Lady into Fox*. ....**Page 13**

Theatrical success: A West End run for Sue Glover's fine and moving play, *Bondagers* ....**Page 13**

FEATURES

Hip parents: Members of the Sixties generation are behaving like teenagers to the embarrassment of their children, writes Joe Joseph ....**Page 15**

Giles Coren: "Men, according *to* ground-breaking new research, think they are *better at shopping* than their wives. No *surprises there. Men are better at every*thing................................**Page 15**

MIND AND MATTER

Starting today: The exclusive serialisation of Richard Dawkins's new book *Climbing Mount Improbable*................................**Page 14**

Sticky subject: Man invented glue nearly 40,000 years ago, according to a team of French scientists. Nigel Hawkes reports ....**Page 14**

SPORT

FA Cup: Manchester United meet Liverpool in the final after defeating Chelsea 2-1 in the first of the semi-finals. In the other, Liverpool beat Aston Villa 3-0, with Robbie Fowler scoring twice.........**Page 21**

Football: As the battle in the relegation zone of the FA Carling Premiership intensified, Bolton Wanderers and Manchester City forced a 1-1 draw ....**Pages 21, 24**

Racing: Rough Quest returned home to his Dorking stables to receive a hero's welcome after winning the Martell Grand National at Aintree..........................**Page 29**

Rugby League: While Wigan showed *their strength in the new Super* League, Leeds launched their cam*paign by losing 22-18 to* Warrington ....**Page 28**

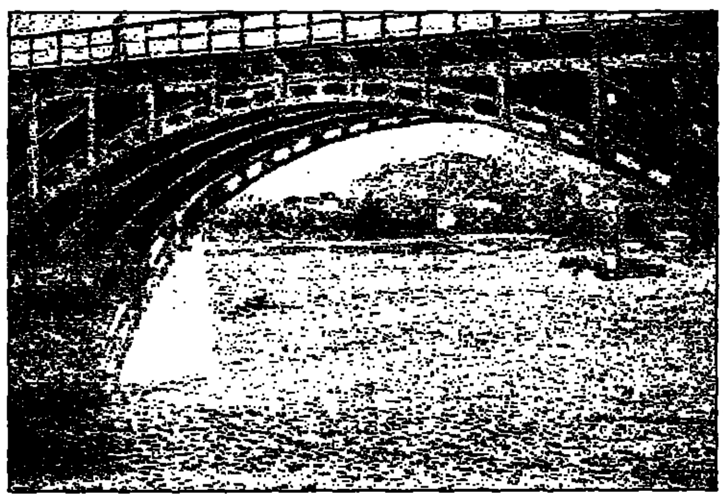
***Golf:** Jarmo Sandelin, of Sweden,* captured the Madeira Island Open, *finishing one stroke ahead of* Paul Affleck, of Wales................ **Page 22**

Rugby union: A cloud hung over Leicester after the dismissal of Tony Russ, the director of rugby, but the team maintained their challenge in the Courage *League*, and lie two points behind Bath, the leaders ....**Page 30**

Motor racing: Damon Hill won *his second successive* Formula One race of the season in the Brazilian Grand Prix.........................**Page 23**

LOTTERY NUMBERS

12, 26, 27, 28, 37, 49. Bonus: 43. There was no outright winner.



TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ NEW LIGHT
Gustave Caillebotte: the forgotten name in the roll call of famous Impressionists

■ LAW
What is the Government doing for the families of CJD victims?

TV LISTINGS

Preview: *Clifford Irving's hoax biography of Howard Hughes is a cracking tale (BBC2, noon).*
Review: *If a couple of hundred Caledonian pines start walking anywhere, it will be to Lochdubh,* says Matthew Bond.........**Page 39**

OPINION

Anxiety's age

The audience that John Major addressed on Saturday was full of elderly, experienced and loyal party officials ... He dwelt upon the issues that bother these most conservative of activists in their everyday lives: security ....**Page 17**

In search of an exit

President Yeltsin's new plan for Chechenia may well fail. But what is not in doubt is Mr Yeltsin's determination to prove that he is sincere. The reason is simple: he needs progress if he is to have a chance of winning this June's presidential elections.................**Page 17**

Whose fool?

The Achilles Heel of the April First *prankster is predictability*. **Page 17**

COLUMNS

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

A *Dispatches* programme suggests that some doctors at *Bristol Royal* Infirmary put professional solidar*ity ahead of the safety of* their *patients.* If this could happen in Bristol, it could certainly happen elsewhere..............................**Page 16**

PETER RIDDELL

Someone has to force the party leaders to spell out the implications of their chosen strategies. As Sir Richard Scott, let alone Presiley Baxendale, would presumably not be acceptable to the Tories, how about that arbiter of public standards, Lord Nolan?..........**Page 16**

OBITUARIES

Hugh Falkus, angler, author and film-maker; **Professor Sir Charles Oatley**, electrical engineer; **Lady Labouchere**, last chatelaine of Dudmaston Hall..............**Page 19**

LETTERS

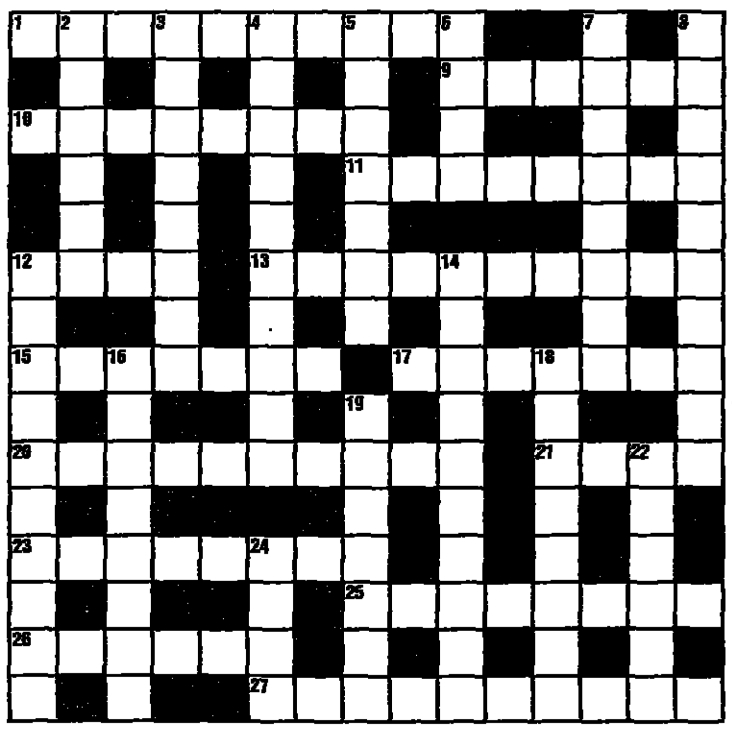
RSPCA and charitable status; sentencing policy .... **Page 17**

THE PAPERS

The once feared Russian Army is a gutted, demoralised force that has been unable to subdue even the irregulars of Chechenia.

The New York Times

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,130



ACROSS

1 Men from the Highlands find hunter, perhaps, after dark (5,5).
9 Colours in green — significant? (6).
10 Batting position, for example (8).
11 She created a row (8).
12 Brief reminder from United States (4).
13 Shylock's collection of monkeys from the desert (10).
15 Local anaesthetics for tots (7).
17 Wary type about giving credit — or buying anything (7).
20 Pitmen shun changes that might be fine (10).
21 The underworld quarter in a Norfolk town (4).
23 Roll — in time, one becomes the cause of food-poisoning (8).
25 Wrong target in negotiation (8).
26 Reptile mocked by Lewis Carroll? (6).
27 Five-year-olds being very good? (5,5).

DOWN

2 Method of paying writer 50 years old (6).
3 Whip a groom used for those no longer quick (8).
4 Prison staff's importance (10).
5 A player's shaky performance (7).
6 Get together with chap over the way (4).
7 Conscientious trainee in editing, possibly (8).
8 Bury bodies outside main church — crosses called for (10).
12 Spy chief turned up in a recent work (10).
14 Without money, pinching article, hence the commotion (10).
16 Small cars go for service (8).
18 Supporter of venerable superior (8).
19 The narrator's within his rights to cheer (7).
22 Tosses fish into a steamer (6).
24 Bank you can make free with (4).

ABERLOUR

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 20,129 will appear next Saturday. The five winners will receive a bottle of Aberlour single highland malt whisky.

Times Two Crossword, page 40

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code:

Greater London	701
Kent,Surrey,Sussex	702
Dorset,Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilts,Gloucs,Avon,Soms	705
Berks,Bucks,Oxon	706
Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops,Herefds & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edn S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times.

AA ROADWATCH

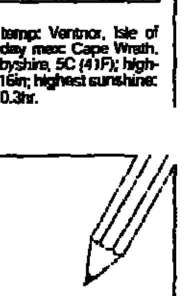
For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, *24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the* appropriate code:

London & SE traffic, roadworks	
Area within M25	731
Essex/Herts/Beds/Bucks/Berks/Oxon	732
Kent/Surrey/Sussex/Hants	734
M25 London Orbital only	736
National traffic and roadworks	
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Ventnor, Isle of Wight, 13C (55F); lowest day max: Cape Wrath, *Highland*, and Buxton, Derbyshire, 5C (41F); highest rainfall: Cape Wrath, 0.16in; highest sunshine: Jersey, Channel Islands, 10.3hr.



FORECAST

☐ **General:** eastern England will be cloudy with showers, some of which *may be wintry.* During the day these showers will become more widespread across central and northern areas. Towards evening it should be drier with cloud breaking. Southwest *England and Wales should be dry* with bright or sunny spells.

Northern Scotland will start the day cloudy with showers and these showers will spread southwards to *affect Northern Ireland and southern* Scotland by afternoon.

☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia, E Midlands, E, England, Central N *England, NE England:*** mostly rather cloudy with showers, some wintry. Becoming drier later. Wind light to moderate northeasterly. Max 6C to 8C (43F to 46F).

☐ **Central S England, W Midlands:** mostly dry and bright at first but showers *developing* for a time. Wind light to moderate northeasterly. Max 8C (46F).

☐ **Channel Isles, SW England, Wales:** dry with bright or sunny spells. *Wind mostly moderate* east to northeasterly. Max 8C to 9C (46F to 48F).

☐ **NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, SW Scotland, Glasgow, N Ireland:** mostly dry and bright at first but *wintry showers* developing for a time. Wind mostly light north to *northeasterly.* Max 7C to 8C (45F to 46F).

☐ ***Aberdeen, Central Highlands,* Moray Firth, NE Scotland, NW Scotland, Argyll, Orkney, Shetland:** rather cloudy with wintry showers at first. Becoming drier and brighter *during the day. Wind light* and variable. Max 5C to 7C (41F to 45F).

☐ **Outlook for tomorrow and Wednesday:** *there will be isolated* showers at first in east, but mostly dry with frost overnight.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

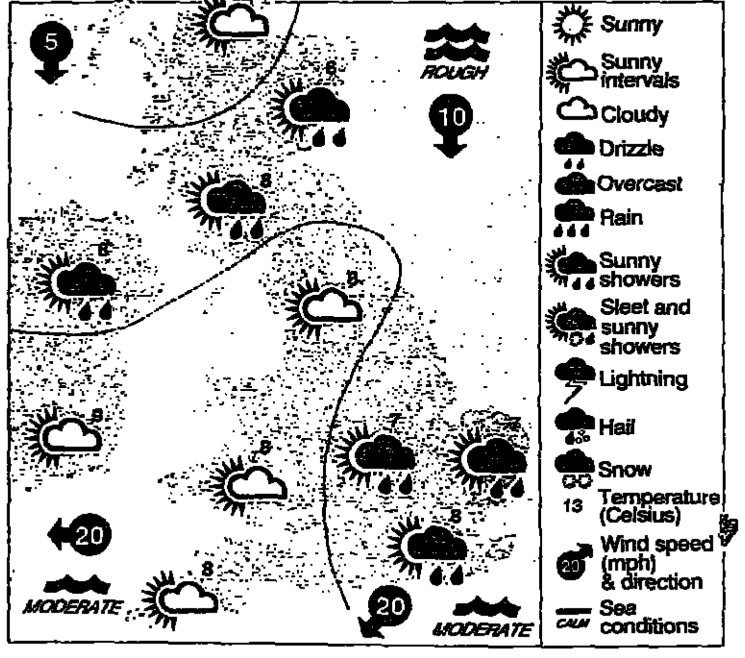
	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	X					Margate	2.8	-	7	45	b
Anglesey	X					Minehead	2.1	0.01	7	45	c
Aspatria	1.3	-	8	46	c	Mmmm					
Belfast	X					Morecambe	0.9	-	7	45	c
Birmingham	X					Newcastle	X				
Bognor R	0.9	-	9	48	c	Newquay	X				
Bournem'th	-	-	8	46	c	Norwich	X				
Bristol	X					Nottingham	X				
Buxton	-	-	5	41	b	Oxford	X				
Cardiff	X					Penzance	X	-	10	50	b
Colwyn Bay	0.5	-	6	43	c	Plymouth	X				
Cromer	4.4	0.03	5	41	s	Poole	1.2	-	9	48	c
Eastbourne	1.8	-	7	45	c	Prestatyn	X	-	8	46	c
Edinburgh	X					Ross-o-wye	0.1	-	8	46	c
Exmouth	3.3	0.01	8	46	h	Ryde	X				
Falmouth	X					Salcombe	8.9	-	8	46	s
Folkestone	1.7	-	8	46	c	Salcombe	8.9	-	8	46	s
Glasgow	X					Sandown	2.3	-	9	48	b
Guernsey	X					Saunton Snd	X				
Hastings	1.3	0.01	8	46	c	Scarboro'	2.1	0.07	6	43	sh
Hayling I.	1.2	0.01	8	46	sh	Shanklin	2.4	-	X	X	b
Herne Bay	3.4	-	7	45	s	Shrewsbury	X				
Hove	X					Southend	8.1	-	8	46	c
Hunstanton	2.7	-	6	43	b	Southport	-	-	7	45	b
Isle of Man	X					Southsea	2.7	-	8	46	c
Jersey	10.3	-	10	50	s	St. Ives	X				
Leeds	X					Stornoway	-	0.01	8	46	r
Lerwick	9.7	-	6	43	s	Swanage	8.8	-	8	46	s
Leuchars	X					Teignmouth	4.4	-	8	46	s
Littlehmptn	0.9	-	8	46	c	Torquay	9.5	-	9	48	s
Liverpool	0.1	-	7	45	c	Tynemouth	X				
London	0.5	-	8	46	c	Ventnor	3.3	-	13	55	b
Lowestoft	1.4	0.02	7	45	sh	West-s-mare	X				
Manchester	X					Weymouth	5.6	-	8	46	c

ABROAD

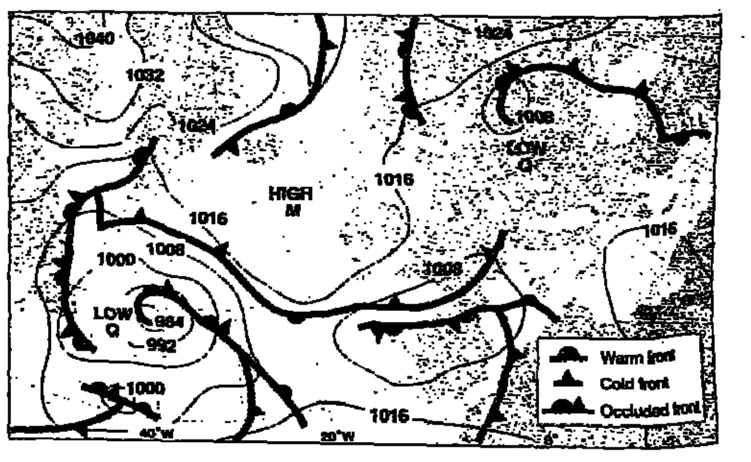
Ajaccio	15	59	f	Corfu	15	59	c	Majorca	16	61	f	Rome	15	59	f
Akrotiri	19	66	s	C'phagn	3	37	c	Malaga	21	70	c	S Fr'isco	16	61	f
Alex'dria	20	68	f	Dublin	7	45	c	Malta	19	66	s	S Paulo	23	73	c
Algiers	21	70	c	Dubrovnik	13	55	s	Melb'rne	20	68	s	Salzburg	2	36	sn
Amst'dm	6	43	f	Faro	19	66	f	Mexico C	14	57	s	Santiago	27	81	s
Athens	18	64	s	Florence	8	46	c	Miami	18	64	f	Seoul	7	45	f
B Aires	27	81	s	Frankfurt	6	43	f	Milan	12	54	f	Sing'por	30	86	f
Bahrain	24	75	s	Funchal	19	66	s	Montreal	-10	14	-	St'kholm	0	32	sn
Bangkok	34	93	f	Geneva	7	45	f	Moscow	-2	28	s	Strasb'rg	4	39	sn
Barbados	29	84	f	Gibraltar	19	66	c	Munich	2	36	f	Sydney	23	73	s
Barcelona	12	54	f	Helsinki	0	32	sn	N Delhi	30	86	s	Tangier	19	66	c
Beirut	21	70	f	Hong K	26	79	f	N York	-4	25	s	Tel Aviv	29	84	s
Belgrade	11	52	s	Innsbrck	5	41	c	Nairobi	26	79	f	Tenerife	22	72	s
Berlin	3	37	sn	Istanbul	9	48	f	Naples	14	57	f	Tokyo	17	63	c
Bermuda	15	59	r	Jeddah	34	93	s	Nice	15	59	f	Toronto	-8	18	c
Biarritz	13	55	f	Jo'burg	25	77	f	Oslo	3	37	f	Tunis	22	72	s
Borde'x	13	55	f	Karachi	X			Paris	7	45	f	Valencia	22	72	f
Brussels	5	41	s	L Angels	21	70	f	Peking	15	59	s	Vanc'ver	11	52	r
Budapst	7	45	f	L Palmas	22	72	s	Perth	24	75	s	Venice	12	54	f
Cairo	24	75	s	Le Toquet	7	45	f	Prague	3	37	c	Vienna	6	43	f
Cape Tn	22	72	s	Lisbon	17	63	c	Reykjavik	5	41	c	Warsaw	3	37	c
Ch'church	24	75	s	Luxembg	4	39	f	Rhodes	18	64	s	Wash'ton	-3	27	f
Chicago	-5	23	s	Luxor	26	79	s	Rio de J	29	84	f	Wel'ngton	18	64	s
Cologne	5	41	f	Madrid	16	61	r	Riyadh	26	79	s	Zurich	3	37	sn

Temperatures at midday local time. X — not available

NOON TODAY



Changes to the chart below from noon: high M will edge eastwards towards the UK and build. Low Q will drift northeast and slowly fill. Low A will head northwest and fill



HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	-	-	12:18	6.2	Leith	0:47	4.8	1:05	4.9
Aberdeen	11:55	3.9	-	-	Liverpool	9:42	8.5	10:03	8.6
Avonmouth	5:19	11.6	5:45	12.0	Lowestoft	7:59	2.3	7:58	2.3
Belfast	9:35	3.3	10:04	3.1	Margate	10:31	4.2	10:39	4.3
Cardiff	5:03	10.4	5:30	10.5	Milford Haven	4:33	6.1	4:55	6.2
Devonport	3:54	4.9	4:21	4.9	Newquay	3:24	5.8	3:43	6.0
Dover	9:29	5.9	9:46	6.1	Oban	4:10	3.4	4:39	3.5
Dublin (N Wall)	10:05	3.7	10:24	3.6	Penzance	3:01	5.0	3:20	4.9
Falmouth	3:13	4.6	3:37	4.5	Portland	4:38	1.7	5:20	1.7
Greenock	10:56	3.1	11:44	3.0	Portsmouth	9:39	4.1	10:07	4.4
Harwich	10:13	3.6	10:26	3.6	Shoreham	9:27	5.4	9:51	5.7
Holyhead	8:44	5.0	9:05	5.0	Southampton	9:12	4.1	9:35	4.2
Hull (Albert D)	4:30	6.3	4:40	6.6	Swansea	4:38	8.4	5:02	8.6
Ilfracombe	4:14	8.2	4:39	8.4	Tees	1:54	4.6	2:08	4.8
King's Lynn	4:46	5.6	4:59	5.7	Walton-on-Naze	10:13	3.9	10:22	3.9

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 6.36 am
Sun sets: 7.34 pm
Moon sets 5.23 am
Moon rises 5.01 pm

London 7.34 pm to 6.33 am
Bristol 7.44 pm to 6.43 am
Edinburgh 7.52 pm to 6.40 am
Manchester 7.45 pm to 6.40 am
Penzance 7.55 pm to 6.56 am

Full moon April 4

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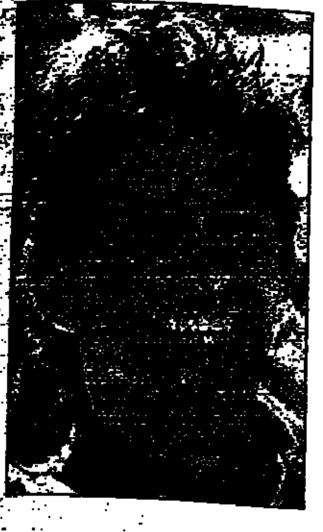
مكتبة الاهرام

هكذا من الأصل

MOTOR RACING



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Hill gives no ground in his drive for the top

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Forward planning reaps dividends at Repton

RUGBY LEAGUE

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Bears prove a soft touch for Wigan

RACING

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National theatre provides grand finale

TIMES SPORT

MONDAY APRIL 1 1996

Beckham stoops to conquer, driving home Manchester United's winner at Villa Park yesterday with Phelan, struggling with a thigh injury, watching helplessly in his wake. Photograph: Darren Walsh

Gullit bows to Cantona in classic semi-final at Villa Park

United head for Wembley

Chelsea 1
Manchester United 2

BY ROB HUGHES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THE FA Cup Final at Wembley on May 11 is sure to be some kind of a climax to this season — any game between Manchester United and Liverpool is always that — but this time the two giants of Lancashire are both in the frame for a League and Cup double.

Yet it is hard to imagine any contest being more pulsating, living closer to the edge of nerve or emotional spirit, than the semi-final at Villa Park yesterday, an almost frightening 90 minutes in which United came from behind to defeat brave Chelsea. It cast aside the caution and mean-spiritedness that has cowed semi-finals down the years and, blessed by wonderful performances from the imported talents of Ruud Gullit and Eric Cantona, raised the tactical and technical merit of the olde English game on a pitch that resembled seaside mud-flats. It was awe-inspiring.

The scoreline tells you there were *three* goals. In addition, the woodwork was rattled three times and both sides made dramatic goalline clearances — one of them, for heaven's sake, by Cantona. Alex Ferguson, the United manager, admitted he has never seen his Frenchman so far back in "free" play. He also admitted he has not witnessed such a stirring semi-final.

His adversary, Glenn Hoddle, rightly pointed out that Chelsea suffered a cruel "twist of fate". Indeed, there were more than mere twists; there was the tearing of flesh that took both full backs, Clarke and Phelan, from Chelsea, rendering the leading side completely broken-winged at a crucial stage of the second half. Phelan pulled a muscle, running upfield with no one within yards, yet persuaded his manager and physio to give him ten minutes more. They turned out to be crucial minutes, because United were a goal down when Phelan fell and a goal up by the time he finally conceded to the pain and the handicap of a damaged left thigh.

Was it unwise for him to be allowed to continue? "You have to go by what the player tells you," Hoddle said. "We had already lost one full back, Clarke, with a very nasty ligament strain, and when Phelan did come off, I had to use Gavin Peacock at left back, a role he had never played in his life."

Belying the desert conditions, the capricious bounce on a grassless pitch, United, depleted by the loss of Bruce, a late withdrawal with a thigh injury, as well as Pallister and Irwin, felt they had no option but to attack. In the fourth minute, Sharpe and Giggs combined and Beckham struck the right-hand post with Hitchcock unmoved, except for the shock in his expression.

FA CUP

Flying Fowler 24
Battling Bolton 25

Then, gradually, Gullit took charge. He did not dictate from midfield — he was far more ubiquitous, now running alongside Hughes at centre forward, now surging down the right flank, now operating almost at inside left — and, from his inspiration, first Clarke lobbed Schmeichel, but narrowly over the top, then Duberry made United's crossbar quiver with a shot that bounced to safety.

Thus, after 35 minutes, when Chelsea took the lead, it was earned. The goal owed much to the bustling perseverance of Hughes, who broke down the left before, with cool foresight, picking out Gullit standing, remarkably, all alone six yards from goal; Gullit's header seemed so very easy.

Yet Gullit was not to pace himself, with his 33 years, to lasting effect and when he tired, so did Chelsea. Then Cantona began to spread influence. Just before half-time, with a sumptuous volley from 27 yards, he comprehensively beat Hitchcock, but again the ball thumped against wood, bouncing clear off the base of a post.

Shortly after half-time, Phelan's thigh muscle twanged and, within five minutes, United levelled. Philip Neville, just 19, showed wonderful composure and great reading of the game by attacking behind Phelan. He slipped the ball through the legs of Spencer, swept it towards the far post and, after Cantona won it in the air, there was Andy Cole stretching to score, at last, a poacher's goal. That was the 55th minute; by 59 minutes, it was 2-1. Burley, having had a most industrious and worthy afternoon as the midfield anchor for Chelsea, tried a hitch-kick back to his goalkeeper, but mis-hit it woefully. Beckham, again part of Manchester's youth, again composed under pressure, took one touch to control the ball and one to guide it elegantly beyond the already diving Hitchcock.

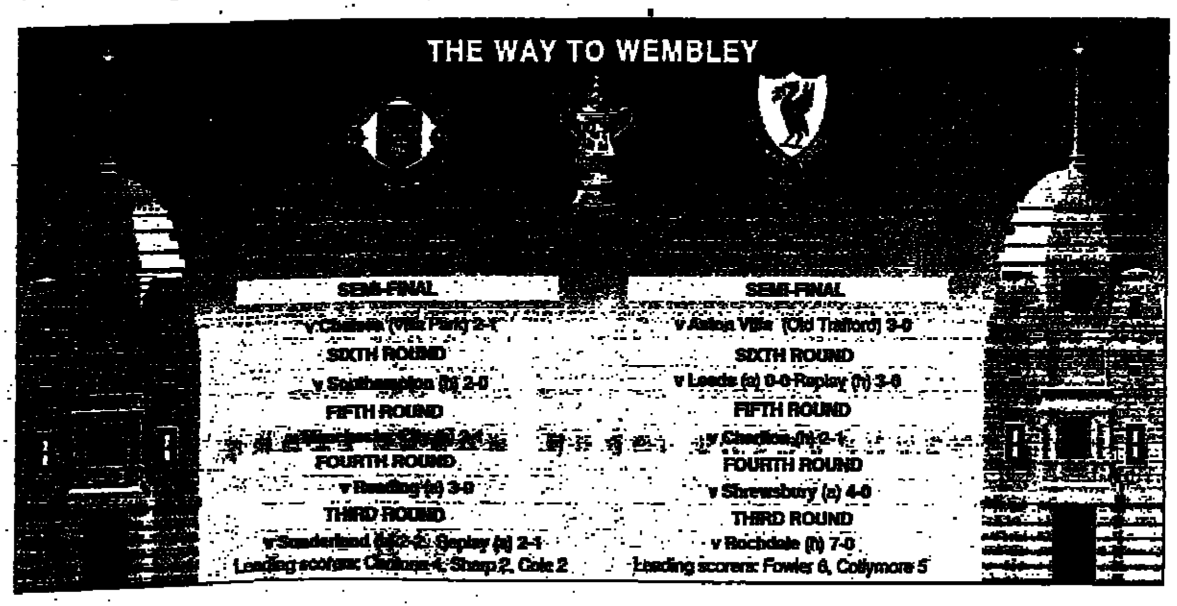
After that came what Ferguson decreed to be the turning point of the whole match. Schmeichel, having been saved by Cantona's headed clearance from a volley from Spencer, faced the odds almost alone when Gullit, Spencer and Wise combined down the left. Wise, 12 yards out, apparently had the goal at his mercy and he did nothing wrong. He shot quite strongly, but Schmeichel spread that enormous Danish frame in front of him, deflecting the ball, as he often does, with his legs. "World class, definitely world class!" Ferguson enthused.

The United manager felt that the sound temperament of his team won the day and, yes, *there* were those in the crowd becoming overheated, screaming for sendings off. Keane could indeed have gone for slapping the face of Wise, but defending him, Ferguson stated: "Roy [Keane] is unfortunate, he gets booked for his first foul. Sparkie [Hughes] had his usual 20." It was also hard to disagree with Ferguson's final assessment that "Dennis Wise would start a row in an empty house", a reference to the little Chelsea captain's apparent determination after half-time to be the provocateur — but such things should leave no lasting impression. Instead, remember the contest, the goals and the high skill.

CHELSEA (3-4-2-1): K Hitchcock — M Duberry, D Lee (sub: P Furlong, 86min), A Myers — S Clarke (sub: E Johnsen, 38), C Burley, D Wise, T Phelan (sub: G Peacock, 64) — J Spencer, R Gullit — M Hughes.

MANCHESTER UNITED (4-4-1-1): P Schmeichel — P Neville, G Neville, D May, L Sharpe — D Beckham, R Keane, N Butt, R Giggs — E Cantona — A Cole.

Referee: S Lodge


THE WAY TO WEMBLEY
SEMI-FINAL
v Chelsea (Villa Park) 2-1
SIXTH ROUND
v Southampton (h) 2-0
FIFTH ROUND
v Manchester City (h) 2-1
FOURTH ROUND
v Reading (a) 3-0
THIRD ROUND
v Sunderland (h) 2-2 Replay (a) 2-1
Leading scorers: Cantona 4, Sharpe 2, Cole 2
SEMI-FINAL
v Aston Villa (Old Trafford) 3-0
SIXTH ROUND
v Leeds (a) 0-0 Replay (h) 3-0
FIFTH ROUND
v Charlton (h) 2-1
FOURTH ROUND
v Shrewsbury (a) 4-0
THIRD ROUND
v Rochdale (h) 7-0
Leading scorers: Fowler 6, Collymore 5

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T0104

BBC's Aintree des res needs a lick of paint

MATTHEW BOND

◆

TV ACTION REPLAY

The difference between the old and the new can rarely have been so apparent. It was volume. The Grand National has been run since 1839 and covered live by the BBC for the past 37 years. *Des Lynam barely raised his* voice above a murmur — "Good day to you from Aintree and what a weekend of sport ahead of us." We were off.

The Stones Super League is four days old. On Friday, it arrived, kicking and screaming into the world, with Eddie Hemmings on Sky Sports doing most of the screaming — "Join us for the biggest night in rugby league history ... join us as Paris Saint-Germain kick off a new era in rugby league history ... join us as we start looking for the new heroes of the Super League." Whatever the future holds for the Super League, one thing is already certain. It is going to be loud.

We shall return to rugby league another day, giving the "new era" time to iron out a few hiccups evident on Friday night. They ranged from the occasional loss of live action to slow-motion replays, to the *rather more unusual problem* of the referee being unable to hear the half-time hooter. Still, our first glimpse of rugby league's version of the third umpire — video replays of disputed tries — was impressive. It was called for at the right time, and the right decisions were subsequently made.

Racing's version of the third umpire had a rather trickier time of things on Saturday afternoon, marring the BBC's otherwise excellent technical coverage of the National. The sound seems to get better every year and the pictures from the car-mounted cameras were quite superb, but, when Rough Quest veered across the path of Encore Un Peu, the only person cheering was Gerald Hubbard, *The Times* private handicapper. He had tipped the first two home in the right order.

In the BBC's mobile control unit, there must have been something close to panic. The finishing post may mark the end of the race for the horses, but, for the corporation's back-room team, it marks the beginning of one of the quickest edits in the sporting year. In something under ten minutes, as Peter O'Sullevan warms down and Lynam interviews the victorious jockey-owner-trainer, the editors put together the rerun of the race. It is the one opportunity they get to use pictures from all the cameras distributed around the Aintree course — hidden in fences, buried in ditches or raised on towers. Normally, it is great television.

On Saturday, however, we learnt that what they definitely *do not need during those* hectic few minutes is a stewards' inquiry. Somewhere in its digitised, computerised control room, the BBC had all the right pictures from all the right angles. The challenge was finding them and then, with Richard Pitman and Peter Scudamore also engaged on the rerun, finding someone to talk over them knowledgeably.

What we ended up with was a different replay released roughly every three minutes, and O'Sullevan and Lynam sounding increasingly doubtful about the result. The wait, particularly for the vital head-on and side-on replays, seemed interminable, but, *eventually, Pitman popped up* to announce that, in his mind, there was "no doubt the result would stand". Three minutes and another replay later, he was back — "The more you see it, the more difficult it becomes."

No doubt Keith Mackenzie, the producer, will have a new contingency plan marked "stewards' inquiry" in place for next year, but I hope that he also gives some thought to the build-up, which did not seem quite up to the high standard of recent years.

Rather too much seemed to be riding on a repeat of the *Des Lynam-Jenny* Pitman Show. Richard Dunwoody was the first jockey to be interviewed. Sue Barker had been dispatched to the Pitman yard for a lesson in horse anatomy and, within the hour, Pitman *and Lynam were at it* again. "She's a very nice lady that Sue," Pitman began. "As are you," Lynam countered. They were off.

Rather more importantly, betting was seriously underplayed. The *National Lottery* has confirmed us as a nation of gamblers, and John McCririck and Channel 4 Racing have proved that the betting ring makes excellent television. You do not necessarily have to do it the McCririck way, but, on the punter's big day out, you definitely have to do it.

Streamlined Scot takes challenging position

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT
IN PONTE VEDRA BEACH

THERE were echoes of Oakmont 1994 as The Players' Championship approached its conclusion here yesterday. *Though the rain and dark* skies that were dominant in Jacksonville, Florida, last week were in marked contrast to the *steaming* heat of a Pennsylvania midsummer's day nearly 21 months ago, two of the men who fought out that play-off for the US Open were casting their appreciable shadows over the inexperienced 54-hole leaders in an event that is described as the fifth most important of the golfing year.

Els won that US Open, his first major championship, beating Colin Montgomerie and Loren Roberts over the extra 18 holes. That was the first of Montgomerie's two play-off defeats in 14 months, the other being at the hands of Steve Elkington in the US PGA Championship last year. The way that Montgomerie is playing, he could become the first European champion here *since Sandy Lyle in* 1987.

DETAILS

LEADERS AFTER THREE ROUNDS (*US unless stated*) 202: T Tolles 69, 64, 69 204: D Duval 70, 66, 68 205: M Bradley 72, 67, 66, J Haas 68, 68, 69 206: E Els (SA) 71, 70, 65, C Montgomerie (GB) 71, 69, 66, F Funk 70, 69, 67, V Singh (Fiji) 70, 68, 68, S Gump 70, 68, 68; F Couples 66, 72, 68, K Perry 65, 71, 70 Other scores: 207: J Daly 68, 70, 69 208: G Waite (NZ) 68, 72, 68, L Mize 70, 67, 71; F Zoeller 66, 70, 72 209: W Grady (Aus) 72, 69, 68; S Elkington (Aus) 68, 73, 68, J Ozaki (Japan) 71, 69, 69; D Frost (SA) 67, 70, 72 211: J Parnevik (Swe) 69, 70, 72 212: M Campbell (NZ) 70, 73, 69; C Parry (Aus) 66, 74, 72; F Nobilo (NZ) 68, 72, 72; N Price (Zim) 70, 69, 73 214: B Crenshaw 70, 73, 71

Els and Montgomerie were ten under par after three rounds. They trailed Tommy Tolles, the surprise leader, by four strokes, David Duval by two and Michael Bradley and Jay Haas by one. None of the first three has yet won a tournament and, with the pressure of the closing holes to come, it seemed unlikely that the sequence of the past three events on the US Tour being claimed by first-time *winners would be* continued.

Montgomerie may have shed nearly three stone, but there has been no lessening of his self-belief. "I am as confident as I have ever been," he had said on the eve of this, his second tournament of the year. "I am very happy with *what is going on. There is* nothing wrong with my game at all. It is as good as it ever was, if not better."

His play in his first three rounds bore out his high opinion of his golf. Scores of 71, 69 and 66 took him to joint fifth with Els. "A 66 will do nicely tomorrow," he said after 36 holes. After 54 holes, he thought a *bit longer* and said: "I am not sure that will be good enough. Perhaps a 65 would be better.

"I have not been surprised at the way I have played here. I suppose I surpassed myself in Dubai to be 18 under in my first tournament, but that has given me confidence to come here and do well. I have played the hard holes well and the easy holes not so well. I've had only one birdie in two rounds on the par fives and that is where I have lost out. That is disappointing when you can reach six of them in two. I must get more birdies on the long holes tomorrow."

Montgomerie was in three *bunkers on Saturday, two on* one hole, yet, such is his skill, that, on the 4th, he hit a full nine-iron to one foot for a *birdie* and, on the *15th*, where his drive ended in one bunker and his recovery in a greenside bunker, he splashed out to 12 inches. These were the strokes of a man at the height of his powers.

"I *didn't* really come close to a bogey," Montgomerie said. "It is always nice to play a course of this quality without making a *mistake*. That is when you win tournaments. It is not the amount of birdies you make that counts, it is the number of mistakes you don't make."

Els played himself into contention in the third round with a 65, seven under par. Taking advantage of the dry conditions, he birdied five of the *first nine holes*.

"The course was there for the taking," Els said. It was easily his best round of the year in the United States.

LENNY IGNELZI

Davies launches her drive at the 10th during a third round that kept her in contention at the Nabisco Dinah Shore

Davies keeps eagle eye on title

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES
IN MISSION HILLS

AWESOME. It is the only word for Laura Davies when she achieves the well-nigh impossible. Mind you, it took *the* biggest-hitting, most extravagantly talented woman golfer in the world that she is to achieve one of her ultimate ambitions — to hit the 18th green here in two and to sink the putt for an eagle three.

The problem was that Davies, the world No 1, did it in the third round of the Nabisco Dinah Shore tournament, not as the championship-winning finale to one of the titles that she covets most. The outrageous eagle simply put Davies in position to win, ensuring that she started the *final round yesterday two* shots behind Patty Sheehan and Brandie Burton, the leaders.

The two American Solheim Cup players were on 210, six under par, a shot ahead of *Martha Nause, the former du* Maurier Classic winner. Davies was joined on 212 by Karrie Webb, of Australia, who leads the United States money-list. Annika Sorenstam, the Swede who dominated the 1995 season, and Meg Mallon, Amy Fruwirth and Tracy Hanson, three Americans.

"I've got a real fighter's chance now," Davies said, "though I really wanted to play the 18th like that in the last round, to win the title. It's my favourite hole. It really means something — it's the 72nd hole in the Dinah Shore and it's not been very kind to me. I've never won on it, but I've lost on it."

As far as can be determined, Mickey Wright, rated by many as the best woman golfer of all time, and Davies *are the only women to reach* the 526-yard 18th in two. Most do not even try. There is water down the left and the green, which is surrounded by the stuff, is reached by a bridge.

On Saturday, Davies went out in 38 and looked irritable and ill at ease. The back nine here are notoriously difficult, but Sheehan came home in 31, with five birdies in the six holes from the turn, and Davies played it in four under. She changed her putting style — "I put my hand further down the grip and stood more over the ball" — and had three birdies in a row from the 12th. She bogeyed the short 17th, but enjoyed the 18th at least as much as the crowd did.

Nancy Lopez once took nine here; on Saturday, *Sorenstam took seven*. A television cameraman who did not know his etiquette disturbed the Swede at the top of *her backswing and she duffed* her pitch into the water. Davies had no such problems.

She hit a monstrous drive more that 300 yards down the fairway and had 209 yards to the pin, which was in a position designed to give players hitting wedges the heebie-jeebies. Davies, ever the gambler, reached for her three-iron knowing that it was at the very limit of her range. "Anything but a perfect strike and it was wet," she grinned.

She hit it to ten feet and there was only one place for the putt to go. There is nothing wet about La Davies's approach to golf.

LEADERS AFTER THREE ROUNDS (US unless stated): 210: P Sheehan 71, 72, 67; B Burton 75, 67, 68 211: M Nause 68, 73, 70 212: A Fruwirth 71, 73, 68, L Davies (GB) 72, 70, 70, K Webb (Aus) 72, 70, 70, M Mallon 71, 70, 71, T Hanson 69, 69, 74, A Sorenstam (Swe) 67, 72, 73 213: S Little 69, 73, 71 214: K Robbins 71, 72, 71, R Jones 72, 67, 75; J Inkster 70, 70, 74, H Stacy 69, 71, 74 215: K Tschetter 71, 74, 70 216: N Bowen 76, 70, 70, P Sinn 73, 73, 70; J Pitcock 71, 74, 71, V Skinner 74, 71, 71, C Schreyer 72, 71, 73, T Kerdyk 67, 72, 77.

Skidpan green angers contenders

FROM MEL WEBB
IN MADEIRA

THE tortuously difficult 18th green at *Santo da Serra* became the rock upon which the victory hopes of a quartet of hapless golfers were dashed in the final round of the Madeira Island Open yesterday.

The green — sloping, two-tiered, lightning fast and possessed of a pronounced nap — was a difficult enough proposition without the added hazard *of a wicked pin placement*, on the crown of the upper level.

The players robbed of their chance were Carl Suneson, David J Russell and Des Smyth, all of whom four-*putted the green, and Patrick* Sjoland, who took five putts. Russell, who is a member of the board of directors of the PGA European Tour, was particularly fierce in his condemnation of the pin-position.

"I've put everything into this week and all that's happened is that it's cost me nearly £40,000," he said. "Whoever *put the pin in that position* should never work for the Tour again. The greens were far too nappy to put the pin *where it was; this has made a* mockery of golf. I'm absolutely gutted."

Strong words, but justified ones. There seemed no place on the green that would give players a half-decent chance of two-putting for par. Three putts were almost a triumph on a day on which the home hole yielded only six birdies.

Sjoland needed a birdie to put himself on nine under par, which would have put him into a play-off against Jarmo Sandelin, who won with a *final round of 69 and a total of* 279, a shot ahead of Paul Affleck. Suneson, who also needed a birdie for nine under, missed from two feet and watched aghast as his ball rolled off the front of the green.

Russell and Smyth both did the same to finish with double bogey sixes and joint third place alongside David Carter, Daniel Chopra and Peter Mitchell. Russell barely set his ball in motion from eight feet for his par. It missed; his next putt was from 45 feet. Smyth *had a first putt from ten feet* and a second from 50.

"Quite clearly, it is a very tough pin position," David Probyn, the tournament director, who did not select the position, said. "Whether it's unfair is an entirely subjective matter."

Sandelin, meanwhile, was blessing his good fortune. Stephen McAllister, one of his playing partners, finished in 26th place, but was probably as responsible for Sandelin's victory as the Swede himself.

McAllister had exactly the same line to the pin as Sandelin, but was five feet outside him. When the Scot's ball missed by a whisker and rolled to the front apron, he had unwittingly coached Sandelin on the correct line and pace. Sandelin knew ex*actly what he had to do to two*-putt and take the £50,000 first prize. Unlike most of the rest, he made it look easy.

Sandelin: good fortune

FINAL SCORES

Great Britain and Ireland unless stated

279: J Sandelin (Swe) 72, 67, 71, 69 280: P Affleck 72, 69, 73, 66 281: D Carter 71, 75, 68, 67; D Smyth 73, 71, 68, 69; P Mitchell 72, 66, 73, 70; D J Russell 73, 69, 69, 70; D Chopra (Swe) 69, 66, 70, 76. 282: I Pyman 71, 74, 71, 66; C Suneson 71, 70, 70, 71; D Borrego (Sp) 74, 67, 70, 71, P Golding 69, 71, 70, 72 283: J Van de Velde (Fr) 69, 71, 74, 69; P Fowler (Aus) 72, 72, 72, 67; P Sjoland (Swe) 72, 68, 72, 71; T Gogele (Ger) 70, 70, 71, 72; I Garrido (Sp) 70, 70, 69, 74, D Howell 71, 69, 69, 74, A Oldcorn 72, 65, 71, 75 284: B May (US) 73, 72, 70, 69; R Russell 71, 74, 73, 66, S Ames (Trin) 72, 69, 73, 70 285: V Phillips 72, 74, 69, 70; J Payne 70, 71, 73, 71; A Sherborne 72, 69, 71, 73, J Coceres (Arg) 71, 73, 69, 72 286: S Watson 70, 73, 73, 70, F Roca (Sp) 75, 70, 72, 69

Graf maintains her impressive form

STEFFI GRAF, the No 1 seed, cruised to her fifth Lipton *tennis championship* at Key Biscayne, Florida with a summary 6-1, 6-3 dismissal of Chanda Rubin, of the United States, in the final. It was Graf's third consecutive Lipton title — she also won in 1987 and 1988 — and her second success in as many tournaments this year.

"I think that's a pretty unique feeling, winning a tournament so many times," Graf said. "Playing the best players and beating them, sometimes it probably gives you a better high afterwards, so sure, I think I would have had probably a better *feeling* if I won it in a tougher match."

Rubin, 20, the No 6 seed, kept Graf on court for just 55 minutes and never looked capable of threatening her. Indeed, Graf's tennis was *almost perfect in the first set*, a single double fault being her only unforced error, and nearly as good in the second.

"I was a little bit nervous," Rubin said. Nevertheless, her *ranking will rise* to a career high of No 7 in the world for reaching the final, despite the manner of her defeat.

In the men's event, Goran Ivanisevic maintained his brilliant form of 1996 with a 2-6, 6-4, 6-4 semi-final victory over Pete Sampras, the No 2 seed. Andre Agassi, the No 3 seed and defending champion, also reached the final, with a 6-4, 6-3 defeat of Arnaud Boetsch, of France.

It had appeared that Sampras and Agassi were on a collision course for a third successive meeting in the Lipton final as he surged to a 6-2, 1-0 lead, but then rain forced a delay of 48 minutes and Ivanisevic was much improved on the restart.

"Everybody was saying it would be another repeat of *last year and I said 'OK, good* luck you guys, but it's not going to happen'." Ivanisevic said.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Davis profits from cautious approach

STEVE DAVIS set up the chance to secure his ninth Benson and Hedges Irish Masters snooker title by cautiously building a 4-3 first-session lead over Darren Morgan in the best-of-17-*frame final* at Goffs, Co *Kildare, yesterday (Phil* Yates writes). Davis, who had taken 4¾ *hours to defeat* Ken Doherty 6-4 in the semi-finals on Saturday, was again reluctant to take any risks.

Breaks of 42 and 40 gave Davis the first frame and he took the second with a brown-to-black clearance. Morgan accounted for the third with a run of 94, and levelled at 2-2. However, he then missed a tricky pink that allowed Davis to regain the advantage at 3-2. The closing two frames of the session were shared.

☐ Mike Hallett benefited *from an error* by Dave Palmer, the referee, involving a respotted black during a 5-2 victory over Brian Morgan in the first round of the British Open at Plymouth yesterday.

New Zealand win

RUGBY UNION: New Zealand won the the Cathay Pacific/Hongkong Bank sevens for the third successive year yesterday, beating Fiji, the sevens specialists, 19-17 in the final. Christian Cullen was the man of the tournament, becoming the first player to score more than 100 points in the competition and creating a spectacular try for Waisake Masirewa that set New Zealand on their way to victory.

Cullen also scored three times for New Zealand in their 42-19 defeat of England in the semi-finals. Nevertheless, the English were satisfied with their performance. "New Zealand are a *professional outfit, they train together so much, they* have pulled people out of the Super 12 tournament for this," Tim Rodber, the Northampton forward, said.

Boardman triumphs

CYCLING: Chris Boardman, *right*, whose career was endangered when he crashed out of the opening time-trial stage in the Tour de France last year, became the first Briton to win the French Criterium International race yesterday. Boardman beat Michele Coppolillo, of Italy, by five seconds over the race's three stages, with Mauro Gianetti, of Switzerland, third.

Navy snatch late victory

RUGBY UNION: A late penalty goal from in front of the *posts by Eyre, their full back, enabled the Navy to claim the* Willis Corron Trophy with a 9-6 victory over the Army at Twickenham. In a game of contrasting styles that never really hinted at a try, Eyre and Knowles had earlier kicked two penalty goals apiece in front of the 18,500 crowd — the biggest for the fixture since 1948.

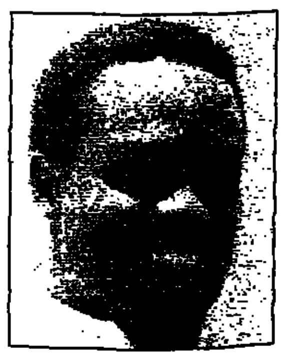
Whitaker qualifies

EQUESTRIANISM: John Whitaker, twice a winner, *yesterday ensured his place in the final of the Volvo World* Cup in Paris next month. Whitaker's third place on Welham in the penultimate qualifier earned him 15 points to take him to eighth in the European standings. Although he was faster than Ludger Beerbaum, the winner, in the three-horse jump-off, Whitaker, from Yorkshire, had two fences down.

Olympic pair

GYMNASTICS: Lee McDermott, 22, from Sutton, in Surrey, *and Dominic Brindle*, 20, from *Leeds*, will represent Great Britain at the Olympic Games in Atlanta in July. They took the first and second places at the trials at Lilleshall National Sports Centre. McDermott dominated the trial to win the competition by a comfortable 1.35 marks over Brindle, while Brindle beat Andrew Atherton, of Wigan, by 0.050 of a mark.

Lara's century turns tide



CRICKET: Brian Lara, right, transformed the third one-day match between West Indies and New Zealand, in Port of Spain, Trinidad, yesterday, with his eighth century in limited-overs internationals. Lara scored an *undefeated* 146 from 131 balls as West Indies eventually cruised to victory by five wickets, with 4.2 overs to spare. They lead the five-match series 2-1.

Little fails test

RUGBY UNION: Walter Little, the New Zealand centre, has been *suspended for two matches after testing positive for a* banned substance. Little tested positive for propoxyphene, which is contained in a painkiller, after Waikato's Super 12 match against Natal in Durban on March 17. A disciplinary *panel, announcing* the ban yesterday, said that it was satisfied that it had been an unintentional offence.

Ratcliffe dominates

CANOEING: Paul Ratcliffe, 22, from Tyldesley, Manchester, swept the board at *the Olympic slalom* kayak trials at Grandtully, Perthshire, at the weekend. For the women, Lynn Simpson, the world No 1, shared the honours with Rachel Crosbee to qualify for the team.

GREAT BRITAIN TEAM: Men: P Ratcliffe (Tyldesley), S Pearce (Nottingham). Women: R Crosbee, L Simpson (both Nottingham)

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Conditions Piste	Conditions Off/p	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
ANDORRA								
Soldeu	80	190	good	varied	slushy	sun	3	28/3
(Good sunny spring skiing; some slush low down)								
AUSTRIA								
Obergurgl	20	80	good	varied	good	fine	5	30/3
(Excellent skiing on new snow; cool temperatures helping)								
FRANCE								
Alpe d'Huez	70	290	good	spring	good	sun	5	26/3
(Good spring skiing, some worn spots in late afternoon)								
Les Arcs	50	185	fair	heavy	slushy	fine	9	27/3
(Good at altitude, home runs very slushy)								
Avoriaz	110	140	good	varied	worn	sun	-2	29/3
(Pistes hard-packed in places, lowest pistes icy/worn)								
Chamonix	25	230	fair	varied	closed	sun	8	26/3
(Spring conditions developing; icy first thing)								
Val Thorens	50	200	good	varied	good	fine	-9	27/3
(Plenty of good skiing, north slopes excellent)								
SWITZERLAND								
Verbier	10	170	good	spring	slush	fine	3	27/3
(Spring conditions, plenty of good skiing available)								
Wengen	10	40	good	spring	worn	sun	-5	30/3
(Excellent spring snow available, lowest runs very patchy)								

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper.

مكتبة الاهرام

[illegible]

Brazilian blend of nerve and skill establishes commanding lead for Briton

Masterful Hill soon home and dry

FROM OLIVER HOLT
IN SÃO PAULO

THUNDER and lightning lit up a grey afternoon in the grime of the southern outskirts of this city yesterday, and drivers watched in dismay as rain bounced off the tarmac. Through the torrent came Damon Hill, supreme and unchallenged, sluicing away the doubts that had surrounded his victory in the Australian Grand Prix three weeks ago.

There can be little doubt now that Hill is the overwhelming favourite to win his first Formula One motor racing world drivers' championship this season. Jacques Villeneuve, his Williams-Renault team-mate, the man who is likely to be his fiercest challenger for the title and the driver who suggested, with his performance in Melbourne on his debut, that he could do no wrong, slid off into a gravel trap before the race was even halfway through.

By then, the Englishman was in a race of his own anyway, making the most of the superiority of his car, and turning the Brazilian Grand Prix into an academic exercise. In heavy rain, or in the bright suunshine in which the race finished, he did not put a foot wrong.

Hill started from pole position, he set the fastest lap, he won the race by nearly 18 seconds. At one point, he even lapped his nemesis, Michael Schumacher. If his win in Australia owed something to fortune, he was hostage to no one this time.

With two wins out of two and looking more relaxed and cheerful than at any time since he entered Formula One, Hill now leads the championship by 14 points. Villeneuve may still be a threat, but the rest seem destined to be bit-part players, at least for the first half of the season.

Hill began the race from the twelfth pole position of his career, in the midst of a downpour that had turned the pit lane into a mass of deep puddles, and which forced the drivers to use the umbrellas that usually shield them from the sun on the grid, for more conventional purposes. The circuit, which swoops up and down through a natural amphitheatre, was bathed in low cloud, and forked lightning flickered in the distance.

Hill made a tentative start, and had to slew his car to the left to block the Jordan-Peugeot of the local hero, Rubens Barrichello, who was starting alongside him on the front row. Villeneuve darted into the gap and drew alongside his team-mate, but could not press home his advantage on the sodden track.

Once he had survived that threat, Hill disappeared into the distance, producing a masterful display of driving that the late Ayrton Senna, the acknowledged master of wet conditions, would have been proud of. By the twelfth lap, he was nearly 15 seconds clear of the field.

Behind him, in his Benetton-Renault, Jean Alesi, another wet-weather specialist, briefly pressured Villeneuve for second place. However, as the dominance of the Williams-Renault began to tell, Alesi slipped back and found himself fighting to hold on to third place under the sustained assault of Barrichello. Twice, the young Brazilian overtook him at the end of the straight, and twice Alesi retook him.

As they went side by side into corner after corner, submerged in a war of skill and nerves, Schumacher, in fourth place in his Ferrari, was engaged in a copycat struggle with the Sauber-Ford of Heinz-Harald Frentzen behind him. Out of the rain, a thrilling legacy had sprouted.

Despite the intense infighting, each driver managed to fend off the challenges from behind, but just when it seemed that things had stabilised, Alesi closed dramatically on Villeneuve. The young French-Canadian tried to block his charge at the end of the straight on the 27th lap, but was forced wide off the racing line. His wheels locked and he spun into a gravel trap. The aura of infallibility that had clung to him during his debut in Australia had been washed away by the rain.

Soon afterwards, though, the downpour abated, and as the drivers pounded round, a dry line began to emerge. By midway through the 71-lap race, they were veering off the line to dampen their tyres and try to preserve them. On the fortieth lap, Hill responded to the change in conditions and made a pit stop to switch to dry tyres. His pursuers quickly followed suit, but Hill still had a lead of more than 26 seconds over Alesi.

That lead was never seriously threatened, and with Alesi comfortable in second place, attention switched to the battle for third place, between Schumacher and Barrichello.

A huge cheer echoed across the circuit when the Brazilian, who is emerging from a difficult spell when he tried too hard to emulate Senna, overtook the world champion at the end of the straight. He was forced wide, however, and Schumacher went back ahead of him immediately.

Almost before Barrichello could resume the chase, he spun off at the next corner and out of the race. To complete Jordan's misery, his team-mate, Martin Brundle, spun off one lap later, four laps from the end when he was seventh.

[illegible] yesterday, setting up an emphat[illegible] [illegible]ph: Diego Giudice

[illegible]GOS DETAILS

RESULT (71 laps, 307.075 kilometres): 1, D Hill (GB) Williams-Renault, 1hr 49min 52.976sec; 2, J Alesi (Fr) Benetton-Renault, 17.982sec behind; 3, M Schumacher (Ger) Ferrari, 1 lap behind; 4, M Hakkinen (Fin) McLaren-Mercedes, 1 lap behind; 5, M Salo (Fin) Tyrrell-Yamaha, 1 lap behind; 6, O Panis (Fr) Ligier-Mugen Honda, 1 lap behind; 7, E Irvine (GB) Ferrari, 1 lap behind; 8, P-P Diniz (Br) Ligier-Mugen Honda, 2 laps behind; 9, U Katayama (Japan) Tyrrell-Yamaha, 2 laps behind; 10, P Lamy (Por) Minardi-Ford, 3 laps behind; 11, L Badoer (It) Forti-Ford, 4 laps behind; 12, M Brundle (GB) Jordan-Peugeot, 6 laps behind. Did not finish: R Barrichello (Br) Jordan-Peugeot; J Villeneuve (Can) Williams-Renault; G Berger (Austria) Benetton-Renault; H-H Frentzen (Ger) Sauber-Ford; J Herbert (GB) Sauber-Ford; J Verstappen (Holl) Footwork-Hart; D Coulthard (GB) McLaren-Mercedes; R Rosset (Br) Footwork-Hart; A Montermini (It) Forti-Ford; T Marques (Br) Minardi-Ford. Fastest lap: Hill 1min 21.547sec.

CHAMPIONSHIP POSITIONS (after two rounds): Drivers: 1, Hill 20pts; equal 2, Villeneuve and Alesi 6; 4, Hakkinen 5; equal 5, Irvine and Schumacher 4; equal 7, Berger and Salo 3; 9, Panis 1. Constructors: 1, Williams 26; 2, Benetton 9; 3, Ferrari 8; 4, McLaren 5; 5, Tyrrell 3; 6, Ligier 1.

REMAINING GRANDS PRIX: Apr 7: Argentina, Buenos Aires. Apr 28: European, Nurburgring, Germany. May 5: San Marino, Imola. May 19: Spanish, Barcelona. June 2: Monaco, Monte Carlo. June 16: Canadian, Montreal. June 30: French, Magny Cours. July 14: British, Silverstone. July 28: German, Hockenheim. Aug 11: Hungarian, Budapest. Aug 25: Belgian, Spa-Francorchamps. Sept 8: Italian, Monza. Sept 22: Portuguese, Estoril. Oct 13: Japanese, Suzuka.

☐ *Ladbrokes make Damon Hill 5-2 on to win the world drivers' championship*

Successful defence puts Allcock on top of the world

FROM DAVID RHYS JONES
IN ADELAIDE

TONY ALLCOCK successfully defended his world outdoor singles title here yesterday, beating Jeff Rabkin, of Israel, 25-15 in the final. Not even David Bryant, who won the title three times, managed to win it twice in succession, and Allcock's face showed his elation when Rabkin missed with his final despairing effort.

Allcock, from Cheltenham, is not normally short on words. Four years ago, he clashed with Rabkin after Israel had beaten England in the pairs at Worthing, but, yesterday, he was clearly overcome by emotion, and was unusually tongue-tied after his victory.

Given the contretemps between the two in 1992, the match was good-natured and entertaining, but was never a classic because the rink caught both players by surprise.

"It was unbelievably fast," Allcock said. "All through the event, on the instructions of the World Bowls Board [WBB], the greenkeepers have been watering the green to keep the pace down to around 14 seconds, but, today, I swear it was running at 19 or 20 seconds in places."

Allcock said that he had been stung into action by criticism that he had been inconsistent. "Not that I was consistent today," he said. Nobody could have been consistent on that rink. Why on earth did they speed it up for the final?"

Allcock, who seems to have escaped a WBB regulation that prohibits the wearing of advertising material other than that sanctioned by the organisers, was full of praise for his new Greenmaster bowls, made by A. J. Ayers in Liverpool. Throughout this event, he has been wearing the manufacturer's logo, four inches wide and an inch high, on his back pocket. Officials have turned a blind eye.

Rabkin took Allcock to 13-12, before the latter made his move. "I tried to treat it like a sets game, got my head down, and took it one end at a time," Allcock said. "I wasn't brilliant, but I coped with the conditions better than Jeff did."

Brett Morley, David Cutler, John Bell and Andy Thomson made it an England double, overwhelming Robert Weale's Wales rink 20-9 in the fours final.

Although England failed to win a medal in pairs or triples, the five-man team played 32 matches in 14 days and lost only two. Scotland, however, won the team title, lifting the Leonard Trophy for the second time in succession and the fourth time altogether.

Jansher's reign is threatened by home challengers

BY COLIN MCQUILLAN

IT IS a measure of Britain's gathering strength on the international squash scene that there has never been a greater expectation of domestic success in the Leekes British Open Championships, which reach the first-round proper stage in Cardiff today.

Peter Nicol, the Scot, leads the home challenge in the men's championship, closely followed by Del Harris, Chris Walker and Mark Chaloner, the English trio who, with Simon Parke, won the world team title late last year.

Nicol and Harris are seeded to provided successive challenges to the defending champion, Jansher Khan, of Pakistan, in as tough a draw as he has faced in the game's blue ribbon event.Harris beat Jansher for the first time in the PSA world tour play-offs at Hatfield last week and Nicol has one victory over the Pakistani in Cardiff.

Walker also faces a difficult series, with Gary Waite, the Canadian champion, for openers, Julien Bonetat, the French No I, as a probable second-round opponent and then Nicol in the quarter-finals

Chaloner will need another of the heroic performances that won him the Sports Writers International Newcomer award for last year to negotiate a bottom half of the draw, which contains all the strongest Australians. He starts against the fast-improving Dan Jensen and will have to defeat Brett Martin, the No 3 seed, and Rodney Eyles, the No 2 seed, to reach the final on Sunday.

Eyles himself may find the most difficult barrier a scheduled quarter-final against Anthony Hill, his compatriot infamous for his headbutting clash with Mir Zaman Gul at the British Open in 1994. Hill drew tremendous criticism from Eyles for letting down the Australian team.

Another Australian, Michelle Martin, begins the defence of her women's title today and is scheduled to meet Suzanne Horner, the British national champion who defeated her in the Abshot Open this month. Cassandra Jackman, the England No I still waiting to win a major individual event, will need to overcome a strong home presence, including Linda Sharman, who defeated her in January, to reach a semi-final against Sarah FitzGerald, of Australia, the No 2 seed.

SEEDS: Men: 1, Jansher Khan (Pak); 2, R Eyles (Aus); 3, B Martin (Aus); 4, P Nicol (Scot); 5, D Harris (Eng); 6, C Walker (Eng); 7, A Hill (Aus); 8, M Chalinor (Eng). Women: 1, M Martin (Aus); 2, S FitzGerald (Aus); 3, E Irving (Aus); 4, C Jackman (Eng), 5, C Owens (Aus); 6, S Horner (Eng); 7, S Schone (Ger); 8, F Geaves (Eng).

Redgrave clocks up record win

BY MIKE ROSEWELL

THE Head of the River Trophy returned to British hands after three years of overseas domination on Saturday. Leander I, a combination of GB squad oarsmen released briefly from their national duties for the race, won by ten seconds to give Steve Redgrave, their seven man, a record tenth win in the event.

Redgrave, reported to be "very focused" before the 4¼-mile marathon, certainly received great support from his national squad colleagues.

The crew were already striking 36 at Harrods and gradually built this to 40 by the finish at Putney, where they had opened up a 43-second gap ahead of their surprisingly low rating second crew.

The second and third places were also filled by British crews. London University had the advantage of a battle with Nottingham County II. The heavier UL crew had caught Nottingham by Chiswick Steps and then raced them in almost regatta fashion for the second half.

Molesey, with Olympic champions Greg and Jonny Searle in the engine room, and Peter Haining, the world lightweight skulls champion, looking small in the two seat, had a less frenetic passage directly behind UL and Nottingham and edged the third place by a split second from a smooth London RC combination.

Cambridge recorded their fifth successive victory in the Women's Boat Race at Henley yesterday.

They led from the first stroke and moved steadily away to win by four lengths.

Results, page 31

Cannock win chase for title

BY SYDNEY FRISKIN

CANNOCK were duly proclaimed the hockey champions of England before a home crowd of 2,000 yesterday, clinching the National League first division title with a 2-0 victory over Southgate.

This prize, which had become a Southern monopoly since the inception of the competition in 1988, moved for the first time to the Midlands, an achievement summed up by Martin Gilbody, the Cannock manager. "An eight-year target has come to fruition," he said.

Cannock's ultimate success was obtained after much hard work and perseverance against an unrelenting Southgate team that doubled its effort in the second half, forcing five short corners and testing the nerve of Ashcroft in goal. The architects of victory were Takher, the centre half, Chana, at left half, and Sharpe, at outside right.

Sharpe was injured twice, more severely in the scramble that led to a penalty stroke from which Cannock took the lead. Although he was temporarily replaced, he was soon back in action, covering ground at great speed and firing shots at goal.

A penalty stroke was converted in the 22nd minute by Edwards, but Cannock had to wait a long time before Takher made the match safe from a short corner in the 57th minute. Southgate, however, did not slacken.

Reading's aspirations ended slightly earlier in the day, a goalless draw with Havant consigning them to the position of runners-up for the second year in succession. Havant had more of the game and put pressure on Mason, the Reading goalkeeper, who was acclaimed the man of the match.

Old Loughtonians finished third after a 5-0 victory over Indian Gymkhana, Gladman and Nick Thompson scoring two goals each. Guildford slotted into fourth position after trouncing Hull 8-0. Williams scored three goals from open play and Jennings also claimed three, from two penalty strokes and a short corner.

Southgate were worth a better destiny than sixth position. At one time, they looked potential champions, but lost the edge at vital stages of the competition.

Much of the day's entertainment was provided by Stourport and Barford Tigers, who shared eight goals. Cooke found the target twice for Barford Tigers, who were eventually deprived of victory with a goal by Lashford from a short corner four minutes before the end.

Results, page 31

Hightown slip in title chase

IF HIGHTOWN win the women's national hockey league title this year, they will have earned it (Alix Ramsay writes). They have made hard work of the run-in, taking one point from a possible six over the weekend and leaving the door open for Sutton Coldfield to snatch the championship on the final day.

On Saturday, the hopes of Hightown, from Liverpool, were dampened by a 1-0 defeat at the hands of Ipswich. A subdued Hightown could not even rely on Tina Cullen, the league's top goalscorer. She missed a handful of chances to put them ahead. Ipswich, on the other hand, made the most of what came their way, scoring the only goal through Sarah Bamfield.

Things did not get much better against Leicester yesterday. Although Cullen finally found the target, giving Hightown the lead after ten minutes, they could not stop Sue Holwell, the old campaigner, equalising from a penalty corner.

With Sutton Coldfield beating Clifton 3-1 on Saturday, that leaves Hightown just one point ahead at the top of the premier division and only a win against Doncaster in two weeks will be good enough to secure them their first league title.

Slough's season is going from bad to worse. Their league challenge evaporated long ago and, yesterday, they were beaten by Clifton in the quarter-finals of the AEWHA Cup. The match was decided on penalties after goals from Ros Gollop and Lesley Hobley had cancelled each other out. When it came to the shoot-out, Slough fell apart, losing 3-0.

Ipswich had a tense encounter with Olton, of the second division, who were still smarting after the loss of four of their players to international duty. A penalty goal by Vickey Dixon after 28 minutes settled Ipswich's nerves and put them through to the semi-finals.

Sheffield ride out the Storm

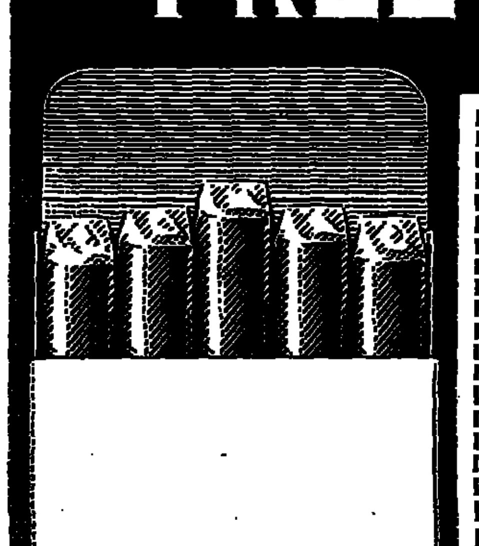
BY NICHOLAS HARLING

SHEFFIELD Sharks summoned up all the virtues that won them the Budweiser League last season to come through a difficult basketball match against Derby Storm on Saturday to take the title race into the last week of the regular season, although the championship is moving irrevocably towards London Towers.

No player showed more character for Sheffield than Todd Cauthorn. Accidentally hit in the face in the first half and smacked in the head after the interval, Cauthorn, a 6ft 10in American, could almost have been forgiven had he lashed out, but it never crossed his mind. "Retaliation," he said, "you don't do that, especially in the other team's gym. We knew they would come at us hard, but we also knew that, if we could take the pounding, they'd get tired."

Cauthorn, responsible for 14 of his team's first 19 points, finished as the game's top scorer with 29 in Sheffield's 84-71 success. Chris Finch, his compatriot, took over in the second quarter, scoring the first ten points, including three three-pointers, and when Roger Huggins, the England international, made his presence felt after the interval, drawing the fouls to collect 21 points, the Sharks had more than enough points to withstand whatever Lakeith Humphrey and company could throw at them.

Towers are expected to secure the title, their third trophy of the season, at the expense of Hemel Hempstead Royals on Wednesday after a crushing win, by 121-76, against Chester Jets yesterday.



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SMOKING CAUSES HEART DISEASE
Chief Medical Officers' Warning

Late goals end courageous challenge as Liverpool's collective talent sees them through to Cup Final

Fowler and McAteer break Villa's heart

Aston Villa	0
Liverpool	3

By David Miller

EASY? Not a bit of it. Aston Villa, a week after lifting the Coca-Cola Cup, stormingly gave Liverpool a physical marathon of an FA Cup semi-final at Old Trafford yesterday, the result of which was never certain until Robbie Fowler and Jason McAteer scored twice in the final few minutes.

Few could complain, however, that Liverpool, the most collectively accomplished English team and unusually having only one "foreigner" in the Irishman, McAteer, should contest the final against Manchester United. Fowler once again pressed his case for inclusion in the England team and Roy Evans, Liverpool's modest and as yet little acclaimed manager, more than deserves this success.

Perversely, Villa's fate, when standing on the verge of a second Wembley final, against the same opponents they controversially defeated the last time they were there 39 years ago, turned on the competitive instinct of Gareth Southgate. England may summon him for this quality during the European championship. Yesterday, his determination to get back on the field, when injured, contributed to Fowler's first goal, so psychologically valuable, after a quarter of an hour.

FA CUP

Southgate had temporarily left the field minutes beforehand to receive treatment on a damaged knee. He should probably have been immediately replaced by Staunton, as he would be eight minutes later. Southgate, instead, ran back on to the field, briefly, with the knee bandaged just as Jamie Redknapp — starting a first-team match for the first time since being injured playing for England against Switzerland in November — took a free kick from the right.

Momentarily, Southgate was mentally separated from the game's momentum. As the ball dipped towards the left-hand corner of the goal area, Fowler stole in front of the man who should have been marking him to dive shin-high and head the ball wide of Bosnich low into the corner of the net. On such tiny miscalculations can the history of the game revolve.

From that moment, for the remaining half-hour of the first half, Villa were consistently the more dangerous side, in spite of the fact that Liverpool's near-flawless inter-passing gave them more possession and expended less energy. And whenever Villa were on target, now, or later in the second half, they were denied an equalising goal by a masterful display by James, the Liverpool goalkeeper.

Never did Villa cease attempting to match Liverpool's cultured touch that has, over the years, become second nature to successive generations of players. There were moments when you might have thought Liverpool were out on the training ground, so calm was their passing even within the tempestuous nature of a semi-final.

Villa, however, were not to be intimidated and when, finally, they had lost by an unfairly wide margin, it was characteristic of this club that its supporters gave them a defiant, loyal ovation.

The difference between last Sunday and this, of course, is that Leeds United have not the quality that is bred at Anfield. So much of the time now Villa were bursting their lungs merely for the privilege of having possession of the ball.

Some of their followers may have gone home protesting that, three minutes after Fowler's stunning header, Villa should have had a penalty. Yorke, not for the first or last time having made Mark Wright look as if he had two left feet, was threatening Liverpool's goal: Taylor, forcing through in support, seemed to be brought down heavily by a combination of Scales and McManaman. The television rerun, however, makes it evident that McManaman had played the ball away before Taylor fell.

MARC ASPLAND

Fowler's exquisitely struck shot produces a second goal for Liverpool to dampen the spirited resistance of Aston Villa in the FA Cup semi-final at Old Trafford yesterday

Townsend and his men dismissed the incident and four times might have drawn level but for James, who either side of the half-hour saved in succession from Yorke, Milosevic and Draper and then, with Milosevic in possession only a stride or two from the goalline, somehow covered all the angles so that the Serb could not turn to get a shot at goal.

McManaman, who had been comparitively quiet in the first half, began to open out approaching the hour and one of his mazy runs all but brought another goal as Jones, overlapping on the left, crossed high into a disorganised penalty area. Back at the other end, Draper's cross to Milosevic, on the far post, brought a downward header that Ehiogu glanced on the half-volley. A goal seemed certain yet somehow James, contorting himself on the ground on the line, managed to keep the ball out. This moment probably marked the point at which Villa's hopes began to drift.

With a little over ten minutes remaining came the most perfect incident of the match, never mind that it brought no goal. Barnes, receiving the ball 30 yards out, paused as though suddenly remembering something he had meant to do before leaving home and, without a glance, struck a left-foot shot that flew like an arrow to rebound from a post. There was no visible power, the motion as exquisite as a Gower cover drive.

Draper still had the energy to summon another run and a shot in desperation that Scales deflected away. With Villa vainly extending their last gasp, Liverpool caught them on the counter-attack and Redknapp's free kick from the left dropped beyond the defence straight to Fowler and his left-foot drive in off a post was little inferior to that of Barnes's shortly beforehand. McAteer's nonchalantly struck third goal at the conclusion of McManaman's breakaway run signalled Villa's reluctant surrender.

ASTON VILLA (3-5-2): M Bosnich — U Ehiogu, P McGrath, G Southgate (sub: S Staunton, 21min) — G Charles, I Taylor, A Townsend, M Draper, A Wright — S Milosevic (sub: T Johnson, 78), D Yorke

LIVERPOOL (3-5-2): D James — M Wright, J Scales, N Ruddock — J McAteer, J Redknapp, S McManaman, J Barnes, R Jones — S Collymore (sub: I Rush, 85), R Fowler

Referee: P Durkin

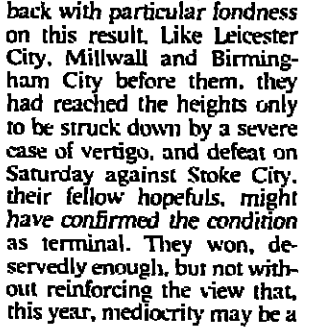
Derby making a virtue out of being ordinary

Derby County	3
Stoke City	1

By Keith Pike

IN A season in which so much of the football played outside the top division has hovered between the mundane and the mindless, no club has prospered more than Derby County. If converting a £3 million loss into a minor trading profit and gaining approval for a new stadium were not enough, Derby have also discovered that a distinctly moderate team can get within reach of the biggest prize of all — promotion. Somebody, somewhere, must love them.

If they do go up from the Endsleigh Insurance League first division, Derby will look back with particular fondness on this result. Like Leicester City, Millwall and Birmingham City before them, they had reached the heights only to be struck down by a severe case of vertigo, and defeat on Saturday against Stoke City, their fellow hopefuls, might have confirmed the condition as terminal. They won, deservedly enough, but not without reinforcing the view that, this year, mediocrity may be a passport to the FA Carling Premiership.



Smith: pleased with win

Not that Jim Smith, the Derby manager, could find much fault with their performance after his team had taken only two points from the previous 12. "It was a relief to come back from 1-0 down against a team with such a good defensive record," he said. "It sends us on our way again — it is another game struck off."

True enough, Derby played with admirable purpose in the second half and, thanks largely to the introduction of Dean Sturridge in attack, a cutting edge. Yet it could neither erase from the memory a woefully inept opening 45 minutes, nor explain how a team of such obvious limitations could go 20 league games unbeaten and, barely a month ago, establish a seven-point lead at the top of the table. Can they really be among the best that the first division has to offer?

Two moments adequately summed up the paucity of Derby's first-half display. They opened with a wild shot into the crowd by Willems from a wonderful position, their only strike at goal, and closed with the same player putting a corner straight behind. Had the Dutchman been wearing clogs, he could not have failed more abjectly, yet his performance was merely symptomatic of the team's: a lack of quality and composure that no amount of effort could make up for.

Trailing to Sheron's firm header from Simon Sturridge's cross, Derby simply reverted to a 4-3-3 formation, upped the pace (if that was possible), and let Dean Sturridge, the younger of the two Birmingham-born brothers, who was in opposition for the first time, do his stuff.

His poacher's goal brought equality seven minutes into the second half. Sigardsson's error and Darryl Powell's header gave Derby the lead five minutes later, and Sturridge made certain of the points with a header 12 minutes from time.

DERBY COUNTY (3-4-1-2): R Hoult — D Yates, I Stimac (sub: D Sturridge, 46min), D Wassall — L Carsley, S Flynn, D Powell, C Powell — R Willems — A Ward (sub: P Simpson, 87), M Gabbiadini.

STOKE CITY (4-4-2): M Prudhoe — R Wallace, L Sigurdsson, I Cranson, L Sandford — K Keen, C Beeston, N Gleghorn, G Potter (sub: M Carruthers, 74) — M Sheron, S Sturridge.

Referee: S Mathieson

LACOSTE

McCoist cashes in with Rangers at odds

KEVIN McCARRA

Scottish commentary

Were it not for the pandemonium, it might have been monotonous. Twice, Paul Gascoigne took corners on the left and sent the ball to the far post, twice it was knocked back, and twice Ally McCoist was waiting to finish. By completing a hat-trick with those two goals in the last seven minutes, he overhauled a 2-1 deficit to give Rangers the lead against Raith Rovers.

In essence, the game at Stark's Park on Saturday ended there. The penalty from Gordon Durie in stoppage time, that made the final score 4-2, was virtually an encore, but McCoist's largesse in letting a team-mate take that kick produced consternation. Could his greed actually have been sated at last? To the relief of his many admirers, McCoist was later to explain that he acted purely from mercenary motives.

The forward has a £50 wager that Durie will amass more goals than Gascoigne this season, and he was simply supervising his investment. McCoist can anticipate a betting coup, but Rangers overcame greater odds still to win against Raith. Their doggedness triumphed, in particular, over their own impoverished performance.

By scoring from those corners and two penalties, Walter Smith's team dispensed with the need to fashion a goal in open play. In extenuation, it might be said that the surface sabotaged skill. There was so much sand spread on the field that the nearby beach at Kirkcaldy appeared to be spreading into Stark's Park. All the same, the players cannot entirely be excused for letting underfoot conditions get on top of them.

It was Raith who demonstrated that ability may force even a pitch such as this to cooperate. The angles and accuracy that they found in the passing movement that allowed Peter Duffield to score the opener were distinguished. Thereafter, however, error and indiscretion predominated as unnecessary shoves brought two penalties, one allowing the visitors to equalise, the other restoring Raith's lead.

Winning, however, is Rangers' profession, and they are not to be diverted from it even on afternoons such as this, when every part of the team is malfunctioning. Defeat would have given Celtic the chance to cut Rangers' lead in the Bell's Scottish League premier division to two points by beating Aberdeen at Celtic Park this evening.

As it is, Celtic must succeed tonight simply to be five points behind with five matches remaining. Included in their squad is Jorge Cadete, the former Sporting Lisbon forward whose contentious transfer was at last concluded on Saturday morning. He is not eligible for the Tennents Scottish Cup semi-final with Rangers next Sunday.

Even in the league, Cadete's arrival may be of little immediate assistance to Celtic, who need, above all, the help of other clubs. While they have little real hope of receiving it, Raith, even in defeat, did demonstrate that it is possible to disrupt Rangers. The visitors may have been sucked into the sands of Stark's Park, but there were other reasons why they found progress so difficult.

Jimmy Thomson, the Raith manager, produced an audacious solution to the problem of Gascoigne. Instead of asking some ruffian to mark the Englishman, he gave the task to a winger. Admittedly, Tony Rougier, a Trinidadian, is not the willowy type. At 14st 1lb, he has, on occasion, played centre half for his country. Nonetheless, he is, at heart, a deft player.

There were firm challenges from him, but Gascoigne was rarely manhandled as he produced one of his least effective performances. Instead, Rougier thwarted him through anticipation and even, at times, forced Gascoigne to try to block runs of his own. Gascoigne did eventually devise the barrage that finally breached Raith, but it came only after his adversary, injured, had to be replaced.

Noting Rougier's display, a few premier division clubs will have been encouraged to believe that they too can vex Rangers. It is just a question of finding, somewhere on their books, a burly six-footer with a dancer's feet.

Optimism offers Brighton's best hope of escaping drop

Brighton	1
Rotherham United	1

By Nick Szczepanik

BRIGHTON will avoid relegation to the Endsleigh Insurance League third division and all their problems behind the scenes will be solved. April Fool! Despite an enterprising performance against Rotherham United and hopeful noises from their club president, Brighton are still heading for the drop with still no definite news of where they will play next season.

On Saturday, a failure to convert chances and an inspired goalkeeping display by Matthew Clarke, the Rotherham captain, meant that supporters at the crumbling Goldstone Ground, blighted as it is by the mirage of a new stadium, have still seen their team win only four times this season. At least the entertainment on the pitch kept their attention away from the directors' box for once.

"I won't give up till the last kick," Jimmy Case, the Brighton manager, said. "We're looking to stay up, but even if we are down with three games to go, we will try to provide a game of football for the supporters, like we did today. The supporters are paramount and I know they enjoyed the game."

His team began brightly, even confidently. Most of the players probably consider themselves better than their league placing and one or two looked keen to prove it. Zeke Rowe, on loan from Chelsea, took the eye with an energetic display, but Clarke, saving from Wilkins and Mundee, gave notice of things to come before Rotherham took the lead against the run of play. Berry robbed Johnson and turned the ball inside for Goater, who stunned the ball over Rust into an empty net.

Dean Wilkins equalised before half-time with a perfectly-flighted free kick, high past Clarke's left hand, of the type that has become his trademark. Wilkins has exasperated Goldstone regulars in the past, but, on Saturday, his left foot, described by his more famous (and balder) brother, Ray, as the finest outside the FA Carling Premiership, was behind Brighton's best moments, forcing saves from Clarke and setting up chances for others with precise passes or pinpoint crosses and corners. Yet, for all their pressure, Brighton could not find a winner: relegation form, in other words, although Case saw the positive side.

"We all know we needed three points, but it is pleasing to play well," he said. "When I went to shake hands with Archie and John [Gemmill and McGovern, joint-managers of Rotherham], they said they didn't know how they had got away with it. Half the time, the Premiership is not as good as that." True, but, sadly for Brighton, the quality of the third division may be of more relevance before long.

BRIGHTON (4-3-3): N Rust — S Myall, R Johnson, G Hobson, I Chapman — D Mundee, G Parris, D Wilkins — C Maskell, Z Rowe, S Storer.

ROTHERHAM UNITED (4-1-3-2): M Clarke — S Smith, P Blades, N Moore, P Hurst — G Bowyer — T Berry, N Jemson, A Roscoe (sub: M Pike, 75min) — A Hayward, S Goater.

Referee: P Taylor.

Taylor keeps dignity intact as Wolverhampton prosper

Wolverhampton Wdrs	3
Watford	0

By Pat Gibson

IT SHOULD have been a moment for Graham Taylor to savour. Steve Froggatt, the former England Under-21 international whom he signed for Wolverhampton Wanderers from Aston Villa for £1 million, picked up the ball on the left after 33 minutes, cut into the middle and hit a swerving shot that squirmed off the goalkeeper's fingers and into the net.

Only Taylor is not the manager of Wolverhampton any more. As Molineux acclaimed the first goal of the season by an exciting talent whose rehabilitation is one of the main reasons why they could yet reach the first division play-offs, Taylor could do no more than offer a wry smile at the vagaries of football life.

Taylor knows more about the subject than most. Four-and-a-half months after walking out of Molineux because he felt that the baggage that he was carrying around with him as a failed England manager was having an adverse effect on the club, he was back as general manager of a Watford side that seems doomed to relegation.

He carried the burden well. The crowd responded warmly when he took his seat on the touchline with a wave to all four sides of the stadium and then fell quiet as Watford proceeded to outplay Wolverhampton with a brand of football that belied their imperilled position. Then, Froggatt changed the atmosphere.

His appearances under Taylor had been limited by an ankle injury that threatened his career, followed by an infection that endangered his life, but now he has given Wolverhampton a sense of urgency that Mark McGhee, their new manager, admits could not have come at a better time.

Eight minutes after Froggatt's goal, Osborn found himself with time and space to fire home another screamer from more than 30 yards and, when he repeated the feat nine minutes into the second half, Watford were a beaten side and Wolverhampton were eyeing what Taylor calls "the Holy Grail".

Even McGhee had written off their play-off chances after they lost away to Grimsby Town, but since then they have won three games in a row and now he said: "Who knows? We could win this division yet! It's as much to do with what other sides have done as our own efforts, but things have conspired to keep us in it and it will be a great shame if we did not take advantage."

Taylor, for one, will not begrudge them it if they do. "I was very pleased with the reception I got," he said, "and I am sure that this season or next the Holy Grail will be theirs."

WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS (3-5-2): M Stowell — E Young, N Emblen (sub: M Venus, 55min), D Richards — J Smith, S Corica (sub: D Ferguson, 80), A Thompson, S Osborn, S Froggatt — D Goodman, S Bull.

WATFORD (3-5-2): K Miller — R Page, K Millen, D Ludden — D Bazeley, A Hessenthaler, S Palmer, G Porter, C Ramage — J Mooney (sub: D Connolly 45, sub: D White, 65 mins), K Dixon.

Referee: A Lowe

Stevenage remain on course for title

By Walter Gammie

STEVENAGE BOROUGH steadied their nerves at the head of the Vauxhall Conference on Saturday by coming through an awkward away trip to Altrincham with a 2-0 victory that kept them four points clear of Woking with a match in hand.

Woking moved into second place by displacing Hednesford Town, who went down 3-0 at Kingfield. Clive Walker brought the home contingent of the 3,194 crowd to its feet with a stunning second goal that he crashed in with a first-time strike from 30 yards.

Walker, in sight of a possible return to the Football League on the eve of his 39th birthday, added a second as Woking safeguarded their unbeaten home record in impressive style. Andrew Ellis scored their other goal.

No sooner have Woking seen off one of the pretenders in what was their fifth successive win, than they must take on another next Saturday in Macclesfield Town — 2-1 winners at Telford thanks to an 89th-minute goal by Marc Coates. They must then go to Broadhall Way on Easter Monday to meet Stevenage in a match that will surely have a decisive bearing on the outcome of the title race.

The largest crowd of the day was at Nene Park, where Rushden and Diamonds drew 3,481 in anticipation of a victory that would have virtually assured their rise to the Conference.

After Carl Alford, their £85,000 signing from Kettering Town, had marked his debut with a goal, Halesowen Town spoilt the party by coming back to snatch a 2-1 victory. Rushden's only challengers for the Beazer Homes League championship, they are now three points behind, but have played two more matches. Whoever takes the title, it will be the last under the banner of Beazer Homes, which has announced that it is not going to renew its sponsorship.

Hayes, having been given the approval of the Conference, are steaming towards the Icis League title after a 4-0 victory over Chertsey Town. St Albans, Enfield and Yeovil Town remain in hot pursuit, all winning on Saturday.

[illegible]

Georgian discovers realities of life among Premiership talent-spotters

Bolton's rough quest targets Kinkladze

Bolton Wanderers 1
Manchester City 1

BY PETER BALL

BY TEN past three on Saturday, Rough Quest had won the Grand National at Aintree. Thirty miles to the east, at Burnden Park, the rough quest went on considerably longer, but Georgi Kinkladze discovered all too quickly that he was to be the quarry as Bolton Wanderers scrapped desperately for survival.

Kinkladze might have found out even earlier than he did. Brown, his midfield partner, who is also slight and dark, but who wears the No 17 shirt as opposed to Kinkladze's No 7, was the victim of a late challenge by Stubbs in the third minute. A statement of intent — or a case of mistaken identity?

Either way, that set the tone in a real relegation battle, from which the sides emerged with a goal and a point apiece, and little credit. Soon, Kinkladze was a crumpled heap as Thompson cut him down and McGinlay was eyeballing Brightwell; then, Curle was booked for tripping Stubbs.

Full results and league tables . Page 26

"He [Kinkladze] did me for skill," Thompson said in mitigation. "Everyone knows how skilful he is, and he showed it. It was a bit late, I'll admit that, but I'm sure it looked a lot worse than it actually was. I was trying to put in a hard tackle to let him know he was in a game."

Kinkladze soon had no illusions about that, but it was Summerbee who was eventually sent off for two bookable offences, both against Thompson. There was some sympathy from the neutrals for Summerbee, many feeling that Thompson should not have been around long enough to be a target after his encounter with Kinkladze. "That first tackle was a shocker: it was a booking, but, to me, he should have been down the tunnel," *Alan Ball, the City* manager, said.

If the general tenor left a lot to be desired, there is increasing suspicion that Kinkladze's special talent makes him a special target. Two weeks ago, Francis Lee, the City chairman, made an impassioned appeal for referees to protect Kinkladze and his ilk. Roger Gilkes, the official on Saturday, was obviously not listening. "He's got to get used to a lot of people trying to rattle him," Thompson said. "Everyone knows he is a danger man. He is one of the top players in the Premiership and, because of that, he is going to get that kind of attention.

"Sasa [Curcic, the Bolton midfield player] has had to deal with that, with a lot of man-marking. It's not easy when someone is following you around a couple of yards away for the whole 90 minutes, but that's what he is going to have to expect. That's the hardest thing for players coming over here — getting used to the toughness of the game."

Sadly, Thompson's view was echoed, without condemnation, by Niall Quinn, Kinkladze's team-mate. "Other sides are certainly letting Georgi know he is really in the Premier League now, not some nice easy-peasy league abroad where he can have a stroll about with the sun on his back," Quinn said.

Toughness is not all. Kinkladze, as Ball said afterwards, was the one exception as City disappeared without trace despite Quinn giving them the lead with a looping header in their first attack. Equally, the one time that Curcic escaped the attentions of Brightwell, his jinking run and cross set up Bolton's equaliser for McGinlay, just after half-time.

Quinn's goal, as Ball said, should have been the basis for a solid City victory. Instead, panic was evident from the early moments as Curle, under no pressure, sliced a cross behind for a corner. For the rest of the game, they showed little enthusiasm for getting the ball down and playing. Curle found touch with a regularity that Rob Andrew would admire, but he was not the only offender, merely the worst.

By the end, Bolton should have won by virtue of pressure alone, and there were moments when Sellars, Curcic and Thompson, and the overlapping runs of Phillips, offered flashes of creativity amid the blood and thunder, but their familiar weakness, the lack of a quality striker, kept them down to one point.

They made brave noises, but, deep down, they knew this was a game they had to win. The draw was a better result for City, but their programme is daunting, with their Manchester neighbours and Liverpool the visitors for two of their three remaining home games. "If we play like that against United, we might as well not bother turning up," Ball said.

BOLTON WANDERERS (4-4-1-1): G Ward — G Bergsson, C Fairclough (sub: M Paatelainen, 75min), S Coleman, J Phillips — J McGinlay, A Stubbs, S Sellars, A Thompson (sub: N Blake, 81) — S Curcic — F De Freitas (sub: S Green, 62).
MANCHESTER CITY (4-1-4-1): E Immel — N Summerbee, K Symons, K Curle, S Hiley (sub: M Frontzeck, 30) — I Brightwell — S Lomas, N Clough, G Kinkladze, M Brown — N Quinn.
Referee: R Dilkes

DAVID TYRRELL

A back-header from Quinn, the Manchester City forward, curls beyond the reach of Ward, the Bolton goalkeeper, to give his side the lead

PREMIERSHIP AT A GLANCE

		Played	Points	Goal diff	Recent form
1	Manchester Utd	32	67	+29	WWDWW
2	Newcastle	30	64	+27	LDLWL
3	Liverpool	31	59	+33	WWDWL
4	Aston Villa	32	56	+16	LWWLD
5	Arsenal	32	54	+16	DWWLW
6	Tottenham	32	54	+11	WLWLW
7	Everton	33	51	+15	WDDLW
8	Blackburn	32	48	+8	LDWWL
9	Nottm Forest	31	47	-1	LWDWL
10	Chelsea	32	45	+2	WDDLD
11	West Ham	32	45	-5	LDWLW
12	Leeds	30	39	-8	LWLDL
13	Middlesbrough	33	39	-12	LLDDW
14	Sheffield Wed	32	36	-8	LLWWL
15	Wimbledon	32	33	-16	DDLWW
16	Manchester City	33	31	-23	LDWLD
17	Southampton	31	28	-17	LLLWL
18	QPR	33	27	-19	LLDDW
19	Coventry	32	27	-21	DDLLL
20	Bolton	33	26	-27	WWLWD

Weekly change   Up   Stayed the same   Down

Wilkins detects brighter signs in twilight zone

Queens Park Rangers .. 3
Southampton 0

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

IN THE Loftus Road press room, the winners and losers impart their words of wisdom from a dais, via a microphone. It gives an orderly, almost statesmanlike, feel to the usually hectic, sometimes fraught, post-match question-and-answer sessions.

What it also does, to those alone in the spotlight, is expose any flaw, any weakness of character. There is no hiding place, only a swift exit. Reputations can be enhanced or shot to pieces in the feverish aftermath of victory or defeat, and frequently are.

On Saturday, Dave Merrington and Ray Wilkins, two of the most placid and honorable managers in the FA Carling Premiership, conducted themselves with typical grace. No histrionics, complaints, banal excuses or rash promises. Their teams had fought a fair and occasionally passionate duel in the twilight zone of the Premiership basement, and their observations were suitably concise.

Rangers had won at a canter, lifting themselves off the bottom and providing optimism where little existed previously. Southampton were back in the mire, though they have at least one match in hand over each of their relegation rivals.

"That was a long time coming," Wilkins said of Rangers' second win in 14 league outings. "People talk about pressure at the top, of the big sides playing in big matches, but there's far more pressure down at the bottom."

It mystifies many how he stays so calm. "People say to me that I look as if I don't care, but I do, immensely," he said. "As long as the players give me everything, which they have done, I can't really do any more."

Merrington has similar virtues — patience, a belief in the finer skills of football and a refusal to accept the odds against survival. He, too, operates in financial handcuffs and he, too, accepts the challenge with barely a murmur.

"I was bitterly disappointed with our second-half performance," he said. "You try to protect your players, but I can't really protect them after that. They're down there in the dressing-room having a few words with each other and I've let them get on with it."

Without Watson and Le Tissier, who were suspended, and Hall, who was injured, Southampton lacked a key component in each department — defence, midfield and attack. Yet, such has been Le Tissier's indifference this season, it is not easy to assess the impact of his absence.

A split-second of brilliance, even if he contributed nothing else, could have rescued a rapidly deteriorating display. Possibly. An inswinging corner or a curling free kick could have led to a goal. Possibly. Ninety minutes of his most earnest graft could have galvanised his colleagues and saved the day. Forget it. Not his style.

Rangers were sharper, more alive, like condemned men suddenly glimpsing a stay of execution. Sinclair recaptured his early-season form, zipping hither and thither, with Barker and Holloway providing the spark behind.

Brevett opened the scoring in the 24th minute, with his first goal in 88 appearances for Rangers, after Beasant had saved Sinclair's shot. Dichio's celebration, after clipping in another Sinclair assist in the 59th minute, involved a partial strip and the twirling of his shirt above his head. It was his thirteenth goal of the season, though ten would be a more accurate count had he not claimed deflected own goals by Babb, Irwin and Atkin.

Merrington: disappointed

Confirming Rangers' superiority, Gallen nodded into a vacant net after Beasant had been deceived by McDonald's unintentional top-spin lob. Nobody was truly deceived, though; a battle had been won and lost, but the war goes on. No moons, parrots or hype from this press-room pulpit.

QUEENS PARK RANGERS (4-3-3): J Sommer — D Bardsley, A McDonald, D Yates, R Brevett — A Impey, I Holloway, S Barker — K Gallen, D Dichio, T Sinclair.
SOUTHAMPTON (4-2-3-1): D Beasant — [illegible] Neilson, J Dodd, K Monkou, F Benali (sub: M Walters, 63min) — J Magilton, B Venison, S Charlton — N Heaney, N Shipperley, [illegible] Warren.
Referee: P Jones

Coventry lacking a saving grace

Tottenham Hotspur 3
Coventry City 1

BY ANDREW LONGMORE

IF COVENTRY City are to produce yet another death-defying stunt, they had better start perfecting it soon. The ground is beginning to fall away. At a time when other stragglers — Bolton Wanderers and Queens Park Rangers — are showing belated signs of life, Coventry are fading. This was their third defeat in a row and their next two matches, against Liverpool and Manchester United, promise nothing more than heartache.

At least Ron Atkinson, the Coventry manager, remained his ebullient self. "A couple of easy games to turn it all round," he said. Their supporters are not in such good heart. One infiltrated the post-match press conference, puncturing the upbeat mood that Atkinson was fostering.

It is all quite sad. Coventry have done nobody real harm in their 29-year tenure in the top division. Their stock-in-trade season has generally taken one of two forms: a) a blindingly good start followed by a steady descent and final survival; b) a blindingly bad start followed by slow and painful improvement and final survival.

You fear for them, though, if their long-standing grip on the coat-tails of the elite is broken. Other than a gift for getting out of scrapes, there is no pressing reason why they should not fall silently into the poverty trap. No great tradition to rely on, no secret horde of born-again Coventry supporters waiting to fall out of the cupboard, no real power base, no sugar daddy in the boardroom. They are just Coventry; a good visiting team who once surprised everyone, not least themselves, by winning the FA Cup (against Tottenham Hotspur, of course).

Yet, there is some poetic justice about their plight now. They have pretended to be big spenders, which is just not their style. Atkinson has persuaded his board to invest an average of £1 million a month in his 13 months at Highfield Road; money the club can ill afford. Relegation, and its attendant train of lost contracts, lost television revenue and lost players, however, looks more certain than at any time in the past two decades. No wonder Atkinson's nerves are jangling more than his jewellery these days.

After two seasons flirting with the nether reaches of the FA Carling Premiership, he must be beginning to wonder if the magic has faded. Relegation, sending out a side not to lose rather than to win, seems a bit grubby, a bit ugly and chaotic, for the extravagant Atkinson.

Defeat by Tottenham was a cameo of Coventry's lifelong struggles — any relegation candidate's struggles, for that matter. A goal up at half-time, courtesy of a splendid volley by Dublin, Coventry were in control. Then, within the space of two minutes, Dublin missed an easier chance, Sheringham headed home a rebound after a corner and Fox took advantage of a lucky ricochet off Richardson to put Tottenham ahead. From possibly 2-0 up to a certain 2-1 down. Fox added a third goal not long after and Coventry's delicate spirit was ground to the consistency of chewing-gum.

"There's nothing in the laws which says we can't get 18 points from our last six matches," Atkinson said. Something in the laws of probability, though, suggests that the National Lottery offers better odds.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (4-4-2): I Walker — D Austin, S Nethercott, S Campbell, C Wilson — R Fox, J Dozzell, D Howells, A Sinton — C Armstrong, E Sheringham.
COVENTRY CITY: S Ogrizovic — B Borrows, L Daish, R Shaw, D Burrows (sub: J Salako, 90min) — E Jess (G Strachan, 68), P Williams, K Richardson, P Ndlovu — N Whelan, D Dublin.
Referee: R Hart

No home comforts for Kinnear

Wimbledon 1
Nottingham Forest 0

BY SIMON WILDE

WIMBLEDON may be a football club, but their game these days is the Balloon Game. Should they be allowed to stay aboard the FA Carling Premiership flight or not? If they are to stay, they must be permitted to move to a new home ground in Dublin, the only place where crowds and gate receipts would be big enough for them to survive; if not, all their fellow passengers need to do is to let the torch of market prices carry the ship ever higher and they will eventually fall overboard from financial asphyxiation.

This stark reality came home to Joe Kinnear, the Wimbledon manager, after his team had all but reserved a place in the balloon for another year with a gritty defeat of Nottingham Forest at Selhurst Park. It was a desperate affair, trench warfare on a churned-up pitch, but a late push by Wimbledon, inspired by the introduction of Holdsworth, gave them the three points.

Kinnear confessed that it was not pretty to watch, but what can one expect when his players are performing in a borrowed, three-quarters empty stadium, which they loathe? It is no coincidence, he said, that all their best performances are away from home. "It was like a morgue out there," he said. He obviously missed the one man in the ground more vocal than himself — "You've got a field of mad cows out there, Joe!"

Kinnear said that he had to drag his players up by the boots at half-time, remind them that their futures were at stake. They responded with a passionate final 20 minutes, helped by the freedom that the arrival of Holdsworth created. An ankle injury has made him an infrequent starter in recent weeks, but immediately he showed his worth in the air, rising at the back post to head a corner to Clarke, who shot over the bar. Forest did not heed the warning and, a minute later, Wimbledon repeated the move, this time Holdsworth heading the ball home himself.

"The sooner we move to Dublin, the better," Kinnear said. "We would have big support there and, once we were able to spend more, we would become a force like Rangers or Celtic. At the moment, there is no way we can spend even £1 million on a player and, if we moved to Dublin, we would only upset 4,000 people."

Whether Wimbledon will be allowed to move depends on the willingness of the Football Association, which in turn may depend on the enthusiasm of their Premiership colleagues. Not that the 60,000 all-seat stadium in Dublin will be ready for another year at the earliest.

Forest, for one, though, may not be sorry to see them drop to earth. They found possession a futile ninth-tenths of the law. They were terribly good in the first two-thirds of the pitch and absolutely hopeless in the last third, Sullivan, in the Wimbledon goal, being asked to make barely one decent save.

WIMBLEDON (4-4-2): N Sullivan — A Kimble, C Perry, D Blackwell, K Cunningham — S Castledine, R Earle (sub: D Holdsworth, 69min), V Jones, E Ekoku — A Clarke, M Gayle
NOTTINGHAM FOREST (4-4-2): M Crossley — S Pearce, S Chettle, C Cooper, D Lyttle — S Stone, C Bart-Williams, B Roy, S Gemmill — S Gunan (sub: P McGregor, 69), J Lee.
Referee: K Burge

Defeat leaves Wilkinson in limbo

Leeds United 0
Middlesbrough 1

BY ALYSON RUDD

ELLAND Road provides players with a canopy, under which they run out onto the pitch. It is sponsored by The Flying Pizza Company. If the Leeds United supporters had brought any mozzarella and tomato with them on Saturday, they would have thrown it.

This game represented an opportunity for Leeds to kiss and make up with their followers after a rather negative bout with Liverpool in the FA Cup was followed by a pathetic performance against Aston Villa in the Coca-Cola Cup final.

Howard Wilkinson, the Leeds manager, was booed at Wembley. He was booed as he took his place in the dug-out on Saturday, but then the fairer-minded supporters drowned it out with applause. He applauded back. The new-found goodwill then fizzled out. Radebe received cheers for an adroit performance as a stand-in goalkeeper, Lukic having been injured when colliding with Pemberton, and the efforts of Kewell and Blunt, two scampering, eager-to-please youngsters, were appreciated.

Yet, there was precious little else for Leeds supporters to put their hands together for. How far away those halcyon days of Yeboah's splendid strike stinging Liverpool, of humbling Monaco in the Uefa Cup, of home trophy double hopes, must seem. Leeds are now not even close enough to the relegation places in the FA Carling Premiership for a great escape to give a season that promised so much some kind of finale.

Wilkinson: mixed reception

If only Wilkinson's side could lose their next seven matches, needing to win against Coventry City on the final day of the season to stay in the Premiership. Then, the Leeds manager could emerge as some sort of conquering hero.

Bryan Robson is under less pressure. Who else could leave Juninho, Branco and Fjortoft on the bench without a whisper of dissent? Middlesbrough will now avoid relegation, Kavanagh's fourth-minute penalty deciding this heated but lukewarm game, and feel snug in the knowledge that supporter-generated revenue — probably £12 million — will be available in the summer to keep the Premiership dream alive. Robson will probably steer clear of Brazil, however. Juninho can be lightweight, and Branco, so far, is just overweight.

Wilkinson's dalliance with overseas players has been a bitter-sweet experience, too. Brolin is expected to return home to Sweden or to Italy as soon as is feasible.

"If I said to those footballers we are going to cancel the last eight games — on Monday or Tuesday, when they've got some of this out of their system — they would be disappointed," Wilkinson said. Let us hope that he is right, for they did not give that impression on Saturday.

LEEDS UNITED (4-4-2): J Lukic (sub: J Blunt, 46min) — G Kelly, J Pemberton (sub: M Jackson, 80), D Wetherall, L Radebe — A Gray, G McAllister, C Palmer, H Kewell (sub: R Wallace, 80) — B Deane, G Speed
MIDDLESBROUGH (3-5-2): G Walsh — D Whyte, N Pearson, P Whelan — N Cox, J Pollock, R Mustoe, G Kavanagh, C Fleming — N Barmby, J Hendrie.
Referee: D Elleray.

Winter's flurry fuels discontent

Blackburn Rovers 0
Everton 3

BY MARK HODKINSON

JEFF WINTER stands out from the crowd. A financial services adviser, tenpin bowling enthusiast and FA Carling Premiership referee, Winter is a bear of a man. This particular bear relishes attention and can perform all manner of tricks with red cards, yellow cards and effusive movements of the arms and legs.

Blackburn Rovers and Everton were always going to be too uncooked and candid for Winter. The match at Ewood Park on Saturday was an accident waiting to happen, and, within three minutes, the crowd was in Winter Wonderland. Garry Flitcroft, making his Blackburn debut, lunged into Grant with his forearm raised. Ferguson, as is his wont, offered his muscular arbitration. Flitcroft walked before he had even ruffled his Britpop haircut, and Ferguson was booked.

Minutes later, Watson greeted Newell, his former team-mate, with a raw challenge. Another booking. Newell matched the aggression in an encounter with Limpar. No booking, but Limpar was taken off on a stretcher. Winter maintained the yellow blur by booking Coleman for a foul on Rideout, the Everton substitute. He, too, had to retire hurt. Sherwood continued the feral intent with a ferocious tackle on Horne. Nobody was wounded or booked — so much for consistency.

The half-time whistle is an arbitrary matter. Its timing owes much to prudence and a sense of fair play. Winter blew just as Amokachi raced through clear on goal, a scene-stealer to the end.

Amazingly, in the second half, Winter all but disappeared and the players supplied some reasonable football. Ferguson and Horne almost scored before Amokachi forced the ball past Flowers from a corner to give Everton a deserved lead.

Kanchelskis then cut inside from the right and appeared to roll the ball down his leg, under his sock and out from the end of his boot. Flowers was mesmerised and the shot looped over his diving body into the net. The scoreline was made somewhat deceptive when Grant, Everton's most creative player, made a marvellous pass for Kanchelskis to once again lob Flowers.

Ray Harford, the Blackburn manager, was terse afterwards, reluctant even to shape words into sentences. Did Flitcroft's sending-off ruin the afternoon? "You could say that," he replied. Have you spoken to him? "Not really." He implied that a double sending-off might have been more judicious. "It was a bit heavy on the lad, especially after just three minutes," Harford said. "Ferguson certainly inflamed the situation. I have seen referees send off both players in similar incidents."

Joe Royle, his Everton counterpart, was unequivocal. "I thought it was an awful challenge by Flitcroft and I was upset with him and Duncan's reaction to it," Royle said. "All the players were incensed about it." Understandably, he wanted to talk about the individual performances within his team. Kanchelskis was "going round them and through them", while Grant "passed the ball throughout".

Both teams will still press for a place in Europe, but whether either has the guile or the temperament to make it anything more than a duty-free shopping trip is another matter.

BLACKBURN ROVERS (4-3-3): T Flowers — H Berg, N Marker (sub: G Fenton, 82min), C Coleman, J Kenna — G Flitcroft, T Sherwood, J Wilcox — S Ripley, M Newell, K Gallacher (sub: W McKinlay, 75).
EVERTON (4-3-3): N Southall — M Hottiger, C Short, D Watson, D Unsworth — B Horne, A Grant, A Hinchcliffe — A Kanchelskis, D Ferguson, A Limpar (sub: P Rideout, 12; sub: D Amokachi, 26).
Referee: J Winter

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP AND FA CUP SUMMARIES

BLACKBURN (0) 0 EVERTON (0) 3
29,462
Amokachi 71
Kanchelskis 76, 89
Sent off: G Flitcroft (Blackburn) 3

Blackburn Rovers: T Flowers, C Coleman, J Kenna, T Sherwood, S Ripley, K Gallacher (sub: W McKinlay, 71min), M Newell, J Wilcox, N Marker (sub: G Fenton, 81min), H Berg, G Flitcroft.

Booked: Coleman.

Everton: N Southall, A Hinchcliffe, R Unsworth, D Watson, D Ferguson, B Horne, A Limpar (sub: P Rideout, 15min) (sub: D Amokachi, 28min), A Kanchelskis, M Hottiger, A Grant, C Short.

Booked: Hinchcliffe, Watson, Ferguson.

Referee: J Winter.

BOLTON (0) 1 MAN CITY (1) 1
McGinlay 74
21,050
Quinn 2
Sent off: N Summerbee (Man City) 75

Bolton Wanderers: G Ward, G Bergsson, C Fairclough (sub: M Paatelainen, 77min), S Coleman, J Phillips, J McGinlay, A Stubbs, S Sellars, A Thompson (sub: N Blake, 82min), S Curcic, D de Freitas (sub: S Green, 64min).

Booked: Coleman, Thompson.

Manchester City: E Immel, S Lomas, K Curle, G Kinkladze, N Quinn, I Brightwell, K Symons, N Summerbee, M Brown, N Clough, S Hiley (sub: M Frontzeck, 89min).

Booked: Curle, Summerbee, Brown.

Referee: L R Dilkes.

LEEDS (0) 0 MIDDLESBROUGH (1) 1
31,778
Kavanagh 4 (pen)

Leeds United: J Lukic (sub: J Blunt, 46min), G Kelly, C Palmer, L Radebe, D Wetherall, B Deane, G McAllister, G Speed, J Pemberton (sub: M Jackson, 80min), A Gray, H Kewell (sub: R Wallace, 80min).

Booked: Pemberton.

Middlesbrough: G Walsh, N Cox, N Pearson, D Whyte, N Barmby, J Pollock, J Hendrie, R Mustoe, C Fleming, P Whelan, G Kavanagh.

Booked: Whyte, Hendrie.

Referee: D R Elleray.

QPR (1) 3 SOUTHAMPTON (0) 0
Brevett 23
Dichio 59
Gallen 77
17,615

Queens Park Rangers: J Sommer, D Bardsley, R Brevett, A McDonald, S Yates, S Barker, I Holloway, A Impey, D Dichio, K Gallen, T Sinclair.

Booked: Bardsley, Brevett, Holloway, Yates.

Southampton: D Beasant, J Dodd, S Charlton, A Neilson, K Monkou, F Benali (sub: M Walters, 64min), B Venison, C Warren, J Magilton, N Shipperley, N Heaney.

Booked: Dodd, Charlton, Monkou.

Referee: P Jones.

TOTTENHAM (0) 3 COVENTRY (1) 1
Sheringham 51
Fox 52, 65
Dublin 21
26,808

Tottenham Hotspur: I Walker, D Austin, D Howells, R Fox, E Sheringham, J Dozzell, C Armstrong, S Nethercott, C Wilson, S Campbell, A Sinton.

Booked: Austin, Nethercott.

Coventry City: S Ogrizovic, B Borrows, D Burrows (sub: J Salako, 90min), P Williams, K Richardson, P Ndlovu, D Dublin, N Whelan, E Jess (sub: G Strachan, 66min), L Daish, R Shaw.

Referee: R A Hart.

WIMBLEDON (0) 1 NOTTM F (0) 0
Holdsworth 81
9,807

Wimbledon: N Sullivan, K Cunningham, A Kimble, V Jones, D Blackwell, P Earle (sub: D Holdsworth, 69min), E Ekoku, M Gayle, S Castledine, C Perry, A Clarke.

Booked: Cunningham.

Nottingham Forest: M Crossley, D Lyttle, S Pearce, C Cooper, S Chettle, S Gemmill, S Stone, J Lee, C Bart-Williams, B Roy, S Guinan (sub: P McGregor, 69min).

Referee: K W Burge.

FA CUP

SEMI-FINALS

A VILLA (0) 0 LIVERPOOL (1) 3
39,072
Fowler 16, 86
McAteer 90

Aston Villa: M Bosnich, G Charles, A Wright, U Ehiogu, P McGrath, G Southgate (sub: S Staunton, 21min), I Taylor, M Draper, A Townsend, S Milosevic (sub: T Johnson, 79min), D Yorke.

Booked: Townsend.

Liverpool: D James, R Jones, M Wright, J Scales, N Ruddock, J McAteer, S McManaman, J Redknapp, S Collymore (sub: I Rush, 85min), J Barnes, R Fowler.

Booked: Wright.

Referee: P Durkin.

CHELSEA (1) 1 MAN UTD (0) 2
Gullit 35
38,421
Cole 55
Beckham 58

Chelsea: K Hitchcock, S Clarke (sub: E Johnsen, 39min), C Burley, R Gullit, A Myers, D Lee (sub: P Furlong, 86min), J Spencer, M Hughes, T Phelan (sub: G Peacock, 65min), M Duberry, D Wise.

Booked: Myers.

Manchester United: P Schmeichel, D May, G Neville, P Neville, L Sharpe, R Keane, E Cantona, N Butt, D Beckham, A Cole, R Giggs.

Booked: Keane, Butt.

Referee: S Lodge.

Sheringham: scored for Spurs

GOALSCORERS

	Lge	Cup	Euro	Total
A Shearer (Blackburn)	28	5	1	34
R Fowler (Liverpool)	25	8	0	33
L Ferdinand (Newcastle)	22	4	0	26
T Sheringham (Tottenham)	16	8	0	24
D Yorke (Aston Villa)	15	8	0	23
I Wright (Arsenal)	12	8	0	20
T Yeboah (Leeds)	12	4	3	19
C Armstrong (Tottenham)	11	7	0	18

SEMI-FINAL STATISTICS

☐ Manchester United joined an elite group who have made it to Wembley for the FA Cup Final in three successive seasons this century, joining Arsenal (1978-80) and Everton (1984-86), both of whom had one win in those periods.

☐ United are on course to achieve a unique second league and cup double, having completed their first in 1993-94.

☐ Liverpool will be making their eleventh appearance in an FA Cup final, United their fourteenth.

☐ It was Villa's eighteenth appearance in the semi-finals, Liverpool's twentieth, United's 21st and Chelsea's twelfth.

☐ The make-up of the starting line-ups of the semi-finalists, in age and home-grown talent, is striking. Chelsea's line-up was the oldest, at an average of almost 28; United's team was by far the youngest, at an average of under 24 — and they fielded the most home-grown players with five (Chelsea were next with four). Age was more comparable in the Old Trafford semi-final, but there were contrasts: Aston Villa had three overseas players and no member of the first team originated at the club. Liverpool, with two home-grown players, had the oldest defence and no overseas personnel.

CHELSEA: Hitchcock 33, Lee 26 (trainee), Myers 22 (trainee), Clarke 32 (Scot), Phelan 29, Duberry 20 (trainee), Burley 24 (trainee), Wise 29, Gullit 33 (overseas), Spencer 25 (Scot), Hughes 32. Average age: 27.7 years. Four former trainees; one overseas player; two players from Scottish football.

MANCHESTER UNITED: Schmeichel 32 (overseas), G Neville 21 (trainee), P Neville 19 (trainee), May 25, Sharpe 24, Keane 24, Beckham 20 (trainee), Butt 21 (trainee), Giggs 22 (trainee), Cole 24, Cantona 29 (overseas). Average age: 23.7 years. Five former trainees; two overseas player.

ASTON VILLA: Bosnich 24 (overseas), Charles 25, Ehiogu 23, McGrath 36, Southgate 25, Draper 25, Wright 24, Taylor 27, Townsend 32, Yorke 24 (overseas), Milosevic 22 (overseas). Average age: 26.8 years. No former trainees, three overseas player.

LIVERPOOL: James 25, Jones 24, Scales 29, Wright 32, Ruddock 27, Barnes 32, McAteer 24, Redknapp 22, McManaman 24 (trainee), Collymore 25, Fowler 20 (trainee). Average age: 25.8 years. Two former trainees; no overseas players.

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

	HOME P	W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Goal diff
1 Man Utd	32	12	4	0	29	9	8	3	5	30	21	67	+29
2 Newcastle	30	14	0	1	33	7	6	4	5	22	21	64	+27
3 Liverpool	31	11	4	1	39	10	6	4	5	21	17	59	+33
4 A Villa	32	10	4	2	28	13	6	4	6	18	17	56	+16
5 Arsenal	32	8	5	2	26	14	7	4	6	18	14	54	+16
6 Tottenham	32	9	3	5	24	17	6	6	3	19	15	54	+11
7 Everton	33	8	4	4	30	18	6	5	6	23	20	51	+15
8 Blackburn	32	12	1	3	38	15	2	5	9	9	24	48	+8
9 Nottm F	31	9	4	1	22	10	3	7	7	18	31	47	-1
10 Chelsea	32	6	7	3	23	16	5	5	6	14	19	45	+2
11 West Ham	32	8	3	5	22	19	5	3	8	17	25	45	-5
12 Leeds	30	7	3	5	18	14	4	3	8	17	29	39	-8
13 Middlesbro	33	7	3	6	23	21	3	6	8	7	21	39	-12
14 Sheff Wed	32	6	4	6	27	26	3	4	9	16	25	35	-8
15 Wimbledon	32	4	6	7	24	31	4	3	8	23	32	33	-16
16 Man City	33	6	6	4	16	14	1	4	12	11	36	31	-23
17 Southmptn	31	5	6	5	17	17	1	4	10	12	29	28	-17
18 QPR	33	4	5	8	19	25	3	1	12	12	25	27	-19
19 Coventry	32	4	6	6	19	23	1	6	9	19	36	27	-21
20 Bolton	33	4	4	9	14	29	3	1	12	22	34	26	-27

Bosman, right, of Anderlecht, and Mukanya, of Lommel, collide in mid-air during their Belgian league match on Saturday which Anderlecht won 3-2

OVERSEAS

DUTCH LEAGUE: Feyenoord 2 Nijmegen 1; Utrecht 0 Groningen 1; Waalwijk 5 Doetinchem 0; Roda JC Kerkrade 2 Ajax 0; Fortuna Sittard 0 Vitesse Arnhem 0; Breda 5 Heerenveen 1; Sparta Rotterdam 1 Volendam 0; Deventer 1 Twente Enschede 3; Willem II Tilburg 2 PSV Eindhoven 5.

FRENCH LEAGUE: Paris Saint Germain 2 Metz 3; Lille 0 Auxerre 4; Monaco 1 Cannes 0; Gueugnon 0 Montpellier 2; Saint Etienne 2 Strasbourg 0; Nice 0 Rennes 0; Bastia 0 Lyon 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Auxerre	33	19	4	10	58	27	61
Paris-SG	33	17	9	7	56	31	60
Metz	32	16	10	6	35	23	58
Monaco	32	15	10	7	47	30	55
Lens	32	14	13	5	38	22	55
Montpellier	32	14	9	9	44	34	51
Rennes	32	12	12	8	37	35	48
Strasbourg	33	12	11	10	43	37	47
Guingamp	31	12	11	8	29	24	47
Nantes	32	12	11	9	37	36	47
Lyon	33	9	15	9	35	35	42
Bastia	32	12	6	14	41	42	42
Le Havre	32	11	9	12	30	37	42
Cannes	33	10	7	16	38	45	37
Bordeaux	32	10	6	16	39	46	36
Nice	33	9	9	15	31	40	36
Saint-Etienne	33	6	14	13	33	49	32
Lille	33	6	12	15	23	46	30
Gueugnon	33	5	12	16	22	45	27
Martigues	32	6	4	22	22	53	22

GERMAN LEAGUE: Hamburg 0 Uerdingen 0; Cologne 0 Kaiserslautern 1; Bremen 2 Leverkusen 1; Schalke 04 3 Fribourg 0; Rostock 1 Karlsruhe 1; Stuttgart 1 St Pauli 1; Frankfurt 0 Moenchengladbach 2; Bayern Munich 1 Borussia Dortmund 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bayern Munich	25	17	2	6	54	31	53
Borussia Dortmund	24	15	6	3	60	28	51
Moenchengladbach	24	12	5	7	38	36	41
VfB Stuttgart	25	9	10	6	49	46	37
FC Schalke 04	24	9	10	5	30	27	37
Hamburg SV	24	8	10	6	37	33	34
SC Freiburg	25	9	6	10	23	29	33
B Leverkusen	23	7	10	6	27	20	31
FC Hansa Rostock	23	7	9	7	35	32	30
Karlsruher SC	25	7	9	9	34	37	30
SV Werder Bremen	25	6	12	7	25	30	30
Munich 1860	24	7	8	9	34	37	29
St Pauli	24	6	8	10	32	38	26
Eintracht Frankfurt	25	6	8	11	34	48	26
Duesseldorf	24	5	10	9	25	35	25
FC Cologne	25	4	12	9	21	27	24
Kaiserslautern	24	4	12	8	21	30	24
KFC Uerdingen	25	2	11	12	22	33	17

SPANISH LEAGUE: Barcelona 1 Albacete 0; Real Madrid 2 Atletico Madrid 1, Salamanca 1 Compostela 0; Real Sociedad 1 Real Betis 1; Racing Santander 0 Oviedo 0, Sporting Gijon 3 Rayo Vallecano 1; Sevilla 1 Zaragoza 1; Espanyol 3 Merida 0; Celta 1 Valladolid 1

ITALIAN LEAGUE: Juventus 1 Parma 0; Atalanta 1 Torino 0, Bari 1 AS Roma 2; Inter Milan 1 Fiorentina 2; Lazio 3 Vicenza 0; Napoli 0 Cagliari 0; Padova 1 Cremonese 2; Piacenza 0 AC Milan 2

BELGIAN LEAGUE: Ekeren 1 RWD Molenbeek 0, Waregem 1 Harelbeke 2; FC Mechelen 0 Ghent 0; Seraing 1 Cercle Brugge 0; Saint-Trond 3 Lierse 1; Charleroi 2 Alost 0, Beveren 4 Antwerp 0; Anderlecht 3 Lommel 2

Endsleigh Insurance League

FIRST DIVISION

DERBY (0) 3 STOKE (1) 1
Sturridge 53, 79
Powell 52
Sheron 22
17,245

GRIMSBY (2) 2 BIRMINGHAM (1) 1
Groves 33
Livingstone 40
Barnes 4
5,475

LEICESTER (0) 0 SHEFF UTD (0) 2
15,250
Walker 62
Ward 83 (pen)

LUTON (0) 1 IPSWICH (1) 2
Grant 49
9,151
Milton 5, 51

MILLWALL (0) 1 C PALACE (0) 4
Rae 79 (pen)
13,214
Hopkin 59
Brown 77
Ndah 86, 88
Sent off: Jason Van Blerk (Millwall) 71

NORWICH (0) 0 CHARLTON (0) 1
13,434
Allen 53

PORT VALE (1) 3 BARNSLEY (0) 0
Foyle 9
Porter 53
Naylor 73
7,359

PORTSMOUTH (0) 0 WEST BROM (1) 2
8,175
Sneekes 20, 79

READING (1) 2 OLDHAM (0) 0
Quinn 41, 52
7,025
Sent off: L Richardson (Oldham) 76

SOUTHEND (0) 2 TRANMERE (0) 0
Byrne 78
Rose 59
4,739

SUNDERLAND (1) 3 HUDDERSFIELD (1) 2
Ball 24
Bridges 83, 87
20,131
Edwards 21
Booth 58
Sent off: B Thornley (Huddersfield) 45

WOLVERHAMPTON (2) 3 WATFORD (0) 0
Froggatt 33
Osborn 41, 54
25,885

SECOND DIVISION

BLACKPOOL (1) 1 BRENTFORD (0) 0
Quinn 42 (pen)
5,899

BOURNEMOUTH (1) 2 BRISTOL R (0) 1
Robinson 36 (pen)
Jones 79
Miller 47

BRADFORD (0) 5 SWANSEA (0) 1
Edwards 51 (og)
Stallard 61, 66
Tolson 84
Hamilton 86
Chapman 88
4,182

BRIGHTON (1) 1 ROTHERHAM (1) 1
Wilkins 41
5,530
Goater 31

BRISTOL CITY (0) 0 SWINDON (0) 0
11,370

CREWE (2) 3 CHESTERFIELD (0) 0
Adebola 5
Murphy 32, 67
4,073

NOTTS CO (2) 3 CARLISLE (0) 1
Jones 11, 62
Martindale 14
Aspinall 48
4,515

PETERBOROUGH (2) 2 WALSALL (2) 3
Griffiths 2
Charlery 36
4,954
O'Connor 18, 85
Wilson 45

SHREWSBURY (0) 1 HULL (1) 1
Anthrobus 79
2,347
Peacock 13

STOCKPORT (2) 4 OXFORD UTD (1) 2
Mutch 7, 31, 86
Marsden 81
6,096
Beauchamp 25
Aldridge 69

WREXHAM (1) 2 YORK (2) 3
Russell 14
Morris 63
Bull 12, 16, 58
2,923

WYCOMBE (2) 4 BURNLEY (0) 1
Ryan 11, 30
De Souza 61
Farrell 90
Mahorn 53
4,921

THIRD DIVISION

CARDIFF (0) 1 CAMBRIDGE U (0) 1
Dale 62 (pen)
2,326
Richards 81

DARLINGTON (2) 3 LINCOLN (1) 2
Gaughan 21, 30
Blake 57
2,146
Bos 34
Ainsworth 56

DONCASTER (1) 1 CHESTER (0) 2
Williams 44
1,548
Whelan 47
Murphy 90

EXETER (0) 1 BARNET (0) 0
Pears 89
2,726

FULHAM (1) 4 PLYMOUTH (0) 0
Scott 6
Morgan 51
Conroy 69
Brooker 84
5,667

HARTLEPOOL (1) 2 COLCHESTER (1) 1
Halliday 16
Howard 72
Gibbs 45
1,364
Sent off: A Locke (Colchester) 59

L ORIENT (0) 0 BURY (1) 2
3,421
Carter 32, 56 (pen)

MANSFIELD (0) 1 WIGAN (0) 0
Hackett 88
2,369

NORTHAMPTON (0) 1 SCUNTHORPE (0) 2
Grayson 63
4,290
Clarkson 48
McFarlane 50

ROCHDALE (2) 2 GILLINGHAM (0) 0
Stuart 11
Thompson 37
2,098

SCARBOROUGH (0) 1 PRESTON (1) 2
Ritchie 79
3,771
Davey 5
Bennett 74

TORQUAY (1) 1 HEREFORD (1) 1
Hancox 39
2,034
White 29
Sent off: N Cross (Hereford) 42

GOALSCORERS

First division: 24 Edwards (Huddersfield, 21 for Crewe), Barnes (Birmingham, 22 for York) 23 Aldridge (Tranmere) 20 Goodman (Wolverhampton) 19 Roberts (Leicester); Taylor (West Brom) 18 Freedman (Crystal Palace, 3 for Barnet), Payton (Barnsley); Booth (Huddersfield) 17 Marshall (Ipswich), Sturridge (Derby) 16 Bull (Wolverhampton), Hunt (West Brom), White (Watford, 15 for Notts County)

Second division: 27 Stewart (Bristol Rovers). 24 Nogan (Burnley). 22 Martindale (Notts County, 18 for Peterborough) 21 Goater (Rotherham) 19 Lightbourne (Walsall) 18 De Souza (Wycombe), Reeves (Carlisle) 17 Allison (Swindon), Connolly (Wrexham), Jones, (Bournemouth), Wilson (Walsall), Armstrong (Stockport), Moody (Oxford Utd)

Third division: 27 Dale (Cardiff) 25 Saville (Preston) 21 White (Hereford), Whitehall (Rochdale) 19 McFarlane (Scunthorpe) 17 Adcock (Colchester) 16 Butler (Gillingham, 11 for Cambridge Utd), Carter (Bury) 15 Littlejohn (Plymouth).

FIRST DIVISION

	HOME P	W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Gls
1 Sunderland	38	12	5	2	29	10	8	7	4	23	18	72	(52)
2 Derby	39	12	7	1	39	18	6	7	6	20	25	68	(59)
3 C Palace	39	8	8	3	30	18	9	6	5	28	24	65	(58)
4 Charlton	37	8	7	3	26	20	8	7	4	26	20	62	(52)
5 Ipswich	37	10	4	4	39	26	5	7	7	29	29	56	(68)
6 Stoke	37	9	6	3	25	12	5	6	8	23	29	54	(48)
7 Southend	39	10	6	4	26	19	4	6	9	21	30	54	(47)
8 Huddersfield	38	11	4	4	33	20	3	7	9	17	[illegible]	53	(50)
9 Leicester	38	6	7	6	24	26	7	6	6	30	30	52	(54)
10 Barnsley	38	9	7	3	30	22	4	6	9	21	35	52	(51)
11 Wolves	38	8	4	6	25	22	5	8	5	21	23	51	(46)
12 Port Vale	36	8	4	6	27	20	4	5	10	23	32	48	(50)
13 Birmingham	38	8	7	4	27	20	6	4	9	28	26	48	(49)
14 Norwich	39	6	8	6	21	20	5	3	9	21	31	48	(44)
15 Grimsby	37	7	9	4	23	21	5	5	9	18	23	47	(49)
16 Tranmere	37	7	6	5	31	23	5	5	8	18	29	47	(37)
17 Millwall	39	6	6	8	19	24	6	5	9	23	32	45	(56)
18 Portsmouth	39	8	5	7	33	29	3	7	11	21	35	45	(48)
19 West Brom	38	8	5	6	27	24	4	4	9	21	28	45	(44)
20 Sheff Utd	39	7	5	7	23	23	4	7	9	21	28	43	(43)
21 Reading	37	7	6	6	25	25	2	10	6	18	24	43	(43)
22 Oldham	37	7	6	5	29	19	2	6	11	16	26	39	(45)
23 Luton	37	6	5	8	25	27	3	5	10	7	23	37	(32)
24 Watford	37	4	7	6	21	20	2	8	10	19	35	33	(40)

SECOND DIVISION

	HOME P	W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Gls
1 Blackpool	39	14	4	2	38	15	8	7	4	23	17	77	(61)
2 Swindon	36	10	7	1	31	12	10	5	3	25	14	72	(56)
3 Crewe	38	12	3	4	37	17	8	4	7	33	30	67	(70)
4 Notts Co	37	11	5	3	31	17	7	7	4	20	13	66	(51)
5 Oxford Utd	38	14	2	2	40	13	4	7	9	17	24	63	(57)
6 Chesterfield	36	12	4	1	33	14	5	5	9	15	26	60	(48)
7 Stockport	39	6	8	6	25	20	10	3	6	29	23	59	(54)
8 Bradford	38	12	3	4	33	21	5	3	11	23	37	57	(56)
9 Bristol R	38	9	3	7	24	26	7	5	7	25	26	56	(49)
10 Wrexham	38	10	6	4	43	25	3	8	7	17	24	53	(60)
11 Wycombe	38	8	7	4	31	21	5	7	7	22	25	53	(53)
12 Bristol City	39	9	5	6	23	16	4	8	7	21	31	52	(44)
13 Walsall	36	7	7	3	26	15	6	3	10	19	20	49	(45)
14 Bournemouth	39	10	4	6	28	24	4	3	12	16	37	49	(44)
15 Peterboro	38	8	5	7	37	25	4	6	8	16	28	47	(53)
16 Brentford	39	9	5	5	19	14	2	7	11	16	30	45	(35)
17 Shrewsbury	38	6	6	7	27	24	5	5	9	21	30	44	(48)
18 Burnley	36	7	7	4	29	22	4	3	11	17	35	43	(46)
19 York	37	6	6	6	22	22	4	6	9	26	37	42	(48)
20 Rotherham	38	9	6	4	25	17	1	6	12	15	36	42	(40)
21 Carlisle	38	7	6	5	25	17	1	7	12	21	44	37	(46)
22 Swansea	39	6	7	6	22	24	2	6	12	14	43	37	(36)
23 Brighton	38	4	7	9	22	28	4	3	11	16	28	34	(38)
24 Hull	38	3	8	8	17	27	1	7	11	9	30	27	(26)

THIRD DIVISION

	HOME P	W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Gls
1 Preston	38	8	8	3	40	19	10	8	1	29	14	70	(69)
2 Gillingham	38	13	5	1	29	6	5	8	6	13	12	67	(42)
3 Bury	38	8	6	5	26	19	9	6	4	28	21	63	(54)
4 Darlington	38	8	5	7	23	20	8	9	1	24	17	62	(47)
5 Plymouth	38	11	5	3	32	18	5	7	7	23	26	60	(55)
6 Wigan	39	13	2	4	32	18	4	7	9	23	31	60	(55)
7 Chester	38	8	8	2	35	18	7	6	7	25	25	59	(60)
8 Colchester	38	10	5	3	31	19	4	10	6	19	24	57	(50)
9 Barnet	39	9	6	4	29	18	4	9	7	18	22	54	(47)
10 Northamptn	38	8	8	4	28	19	6	3	9	13	18	53	(41)
11 Exeter	39	9	7	4	22	17	3	9	7	20	27	52	(42)
12 Doncaster	38	9	6	5	22	17	5	3	10	20	34	51	(42)
13 Rochdale	38	7	7	6	31	27	6	4	8	20	20	50	(51)
14 Hereford	36	7	5	4	26	18	5	9	6	19	21	50	(45)
15 Scunthorpe	37	6	5	6	26	21	6	5	9	26	29	46	(52)
16 Hartlepool	38	7	9	4	26	20	4	4	10	14	27	46	(40)
17 Fulham	39	8	8	4	36	26	2	7	10	16	28	45	(52)
18 Mansfield	37	5	8	5	19	23	4	10	5	25	30	45	(44)
19 L Orient	39	11	2	7	26	17	1	6	12	12	34	44	(38)
20 Lincoln	39	5	7	7	22	23	5	5	10	23	42	42	(45)
21 Cambs Utd	38	5	7	6	26	25	5	3	12	24	39	40	(50)
22 Cardiff	39	7	5	8	20	18	3	5	11	16	36	40	(36)
23 Scarboro	39	4	11	5	19	22	3	5	11	15	27	37	(34)
24 Torquay	38	4	8	8	16	30	1	5	12	13	38	28	(29)

BELL'S LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP

PREMIER DIVISION

FALKIRK (0) 0 HEARTS (1) 2
Ritchie 14
Locke 77
Sent off: A Gray (Falkirk) 32

HIBERNIAN (?) 1 KILMARNOCK (0) 1
McAllister 43
8,102
Wright 76

PARTICK (0) 0 MOTHERWELL (1) 2
5,500
Davies 27
Van der Gaag 59

RAITH (1) 2 RANGERS (1) 4
Dufield 29
Kirkwood 68 (pen)
9,300
McCoist 39 (pen), 83, 88
Durie 90 (pen)

FIRST DIVISION

AIRDRIE (1) 5 DUMBARTON (1) 1
Smith 17
McIntyre 49
Connelly 55, 67
Hetherston 70
Foster 33
910

CLYDEBANK (1) 2 DUNFERMLINE (1) 3
Eadie 2, 78
1,295
Petrie 12
Millar 51, 80 (pen)

DUNDEE (1) 1 G MORTON (0) 1
Tosh 10
2,734
Lilley 52

ST JOHNSTON (1) 4 HAMILTON (0) 1
McGowne 12
Sekerlioglu 64
Grant 66
O'Boyle 69
Sherry 86
2,614

ST MIRREN (0) 1 DUNDEE UTD (3) 3
McLaughlin 56
4,260
Winters 11
McLaren 12
Smith 36 (og)

SECOND DIVISION

BERWICK (1) 2 CLYDE (2) 3
Banks 37 (pen)
Forrester 88
433
Annand 21, 32 (pen)
McCluskey 48

FORFAR (1) 1 AYR (0) 0
Ingles 35
442

MONTROSE (0) 0 EAST FIFE (1) 1
696
Scott 37

STIRLING (0) 0 STENHOUSEMUIR (0) 1
1,132
Hunter 85

STRANRAER (2) 3 QUEEN OF SOUTH (0) 1
Kerrigan 16
McGuire 25 (pen)
Bilsland 90
Harris 69
684

THIRD DIVISION

ARBROATH (1) 1 ALLOA (0) 0
Elliot 35
391

COWDENBEATH (1) 1 ALBION (0) 1
O'Neill 15
300
McFarlane 52

LIVINGSTON (0) 1 EAST STIRLING (0) 1
Young 85
2,084
Dwyer 88

QUEEN'S PARK (0) 1 CALEY THIS (1) 2
McPhee 71
575
Stewart 43
Christie 56

ROSS CO (0) 1 BRECHIN (1) 2
Bradshaw 86
2,362
McNeill 43, 75

GOALSCORERS

Premier division: 24 Van Hooydonk (Celtic). 18 Durie (Rangers), McCoist (Rangers) 16 Wright (Kilmarnock) 15 Gascoigne (Rangers). First division: 20 O'Boyle (St Johnstone) 18 Brewster (Dundee Utd) 17 Hamilton (Dundee). Second division: 31 McCormick (Stirling). 21 Annand (Clyde) 19 McGlashan (Montrose). Third division: 23 Stewart (Caledonian T) 20 Young (Livingston) 16 Dwyer (East Stirling).

PREMIER DIVISION

	HOME P	W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Goal diff
1 Rangers	31	11	3	2	39	15	12	3	0	32	6	75	+50
2 Celtic	30	9	4	1	26	10	10	6	0	28	10	67	+34
3 Aberdeen	30	9	0	6	26	14	5	5	5	19	19	47	+12
4 Hearts	31	8	2	6	30	26	5	3	7	17	24	44	-3
5 Hibernian	31	6	4	5	22	23	4	4	8	17	27	38	-11
6 Raith	31	6	5	5	20	18	4	1	10	13	29	36	-14
7 Motherwell	31	5	5	5	10	12	3	6	7	12	19	35	-9
8 Kilmarnock	31	6	4	5	22	17	3	3	10	13	31	34	-13
9 Partick	31	3	4	9	9	23	5	1	9	16	26	29	-24
10 Falkirk	31	4	3	9	14	22	2	2	11	13	27	23	-22

FIRST DIVISION

	HOME P	W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Goal diff
1 Dunfermline	31	9	4	2	33	18	9	3	4	31	17	61	+29
2 Dundee Utd	31	10	3	3	41	16	7	6	2	22	16	60	+31
3 G Morton	31	9	2	4	29	14	8	3	5	23	23	56	+15
4 St Johnston	31	9	5	2	31	14	7	2	6	24	20	55	+21
5 Dundee	31	4	6	5	20	19	10	3	3	28	18	51	+11
6 St Mirren	31	4	2	9	18	26	6	6	4	22	20	38	-6
7 Airdrie	31	4	6	6	23	22	5	4	6	16	23	37	-6
8 Clydebank	31	5	4	7	17	20	3	5	7	17	30	33	-16
9 Hamilton	31	4	3	8	20	22	3	3	10	12	29	27	-19
10 Dumbarton	31	2	1	13	10	34	1	1	13	10	46	11	-60

SECOND DIVISION

	HOME P	W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Goal diff
1 Stirling	31	10	4	2	31	12	9	5	1	36	15	66	+40
2 East Fife	31	7	5	3	26	16	11	3	2	21	9	62	+22
3 Berwick	31	7	4	4	25	16	8	1	7	29	25	50	+13
4 Stenhsmuir	31	8	3	4	25	15	5	3	8	22	27	45	+5
5 Clyde	31	6	2	7	24	21	4	7	5	15	16	39	+2
6 Queen Of S	31	6	5	5	26	30	4	3	8	24	25	38	-5
7 Ayr	31	5	6	5	22	18	3	6	6	12	18	36	-2
8 Stranraer	31	6	8	2	19	12	1	7	7	14	26	36	-5
9 Forfar	31	7	2	7	15	28	2	4	9	14	27	33	-26
10 Montrose	31	3	2	10	17	32	2	2	12	13	42	19	-44

THIRD DIVISION

	HOME P	W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Goal diff
1 Brechin	31	10	3	3	25	7	7	5	3	13	9	59	+22
2 Livingston	31	6	5	5	16	13	11	3	1	27	9	59	+21
3 Ross Co	31	6	8	1	29	16	6	7	3	24	16	51	+21
4 Caley This	31	4	7	3	24	17	9	4	4	35	15	50	+27
5 Arbroath	31	5	5	5	19	19	7	5	4	19	17	46	+2
6 Queen's Pk	31	6	6	4	21	15	3	4	8	14	26	37	-6
7 Cowdnbth	31	7	5	5	24	20	3	1	10	17	31	36	-10
8 East Stirling	31	5	1	9	21	30	3	8	5	26	29	33	-12
9 Alloa	31	4	3	8	16	32	1	7	8	8	20	25	-28
10 Albion	31	4	3	9	19	28	2	2	11	14	42	23	-37

CONFERENCE

ALTRINCHAM (0) 0 STEVENAGE (2) 2
838
Browne 21
Webster 44 (pen)

BATH (3) 3 RUNCORN (0) 0
Finley 22 (og)
Chenoweth 29
Smart 37
503

BROMSGROVE (0) 0 SLOUGH (0) 0
687

DOVER (2) 2 MORECAMBE (0) 3
Leworthy 2
Lavelle 35 (og)
1,090
Ceraolo 50, 82
Cain 66

GATESHEAD (1) 1 WELLING (1) 1
Ord 11
510
Rutherford 18

HALIFAX (0) 0 FARNBOROUGH (0) 0
697

KIDDERMINSTER (0) 2 NORTHWICH (1) 1
Cartwright 50
Dearlove 62
Williams 8
1,604

SOUTHPORT (4) 5 STALYBRIDGE (0) 3
McDonald 14 (pen)
Whittaker 27
Mitchell 42
Haw 44, 66
Powell 62
Coathup 75
Goodacre 87
704

TELFORD (0) 1 MACCLESFIELD (1) 2
Purdie 53
1,015
Coates 11, 89

WOKING (1) 3 HEDNESFORD (0) 0
Ellis 36
Walker 52, 74
3,194

	HOME P	W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pt
1 Stevenage	33	11	4	2	43	17	11	3	2	43	19	73
2 Woking	34	13	4	0	38	10	8	2	7	33	32	69
3 Hednesford	36	11	2	5	33	19	10	3	5	30	20	68
4 Macclsfld	33	12	3	3	30	13	8	3	4	26	22	66
5 Kiddmnstr	35	13	2	3	45	21	5	5	8	26	32	61
6 Southport	34	7	5	4	35	22	8	4	6	32	29	54
7 Farnborough	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	5	30	30	53
8 Gateshead	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	6	19	17	52
9 Bromsgrove	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	7	25	34	49
10 Kettering	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	10	24	41	45
11 Morecambe	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	9	18	32	44
12 Slough	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	7	25	23	44
13 Altrncham	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	7	18	29	44
14 Northwich	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	5	23	24	43
15 Halifax	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	10	15	36	43
16 Telford	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	10	17	29	40
17 Bath	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	11	14	29	40
18 Stalybridge	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	9	21	27	39
19 Welling	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	10	19	29	36
20 Dover	38	8	0	10	27	32	2	5	11	21	34	35
21 Runcorn	35	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	19	32	2	[illegible]	13	18	41	28
22 Dag & Red	35	4	7	7	25	28	1	4	12	9	35	26

NON LEAGUE AND NATIONAL LEAGUES

UNIBOND

PREMIER DIVISION: Bamber Bridge 0 Bishop A 2; Barrow 1 Winsford 1; Blyth S 0 Gainsborough 0; Buxton 0 Colwyn Bay 1; Chorley 3 Leek 1; Droylsden 2 Marine 1; Emley 1 Accrington S 3; Frickley 4 Knowsley 3; Matlock 1 Spennymoor 1; Witton 1 Boston 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bamber Bridge	35	17	14	4	69	38	65
Boston Utd	36	19	5	12	70	49	62
Hyde Utd	31	17	7	7	66	31	58
Barrow	35	15	12	8	57	37	57
Gainsborough	34	15	11	8	49	34	56
Witton Alb	35	16	7	12	54	52	55
Emley	34	15	9	10	47	37	54
* Accrington S	36	15	12	9	53	46	54
Blyth Spartans	32	14	10	8	58	44	52
Guiseley	32	14	9	9	49	38	51
Bishop Auckland	37	13	10	14	52	50	49
Spennymoor	34	10	15	9	50	48	45
Marine	31	11	10	10	41	39	43
Knowsley	37	12	6	19	55	80	42
Leek Town	35	9	13	13	46	46	40
Chorley	32	11	6	15	53	57	39
Colwyn Bay	33	8	14	11	35	44	38
Winsford Utd	33	8	13	12	42	60	37
* Frickley	35	8	11	16	50	77	32
Droylsden	35	8	7	20	48	89	31
Matlock	35	6	10	19	60	72	28
Buxton	33	4	9	20	28	64	21

* Three points deducted

FIRST DIVISION: Ashton United 1 Harrogate T 4; Atherton LR 1 Farsley Celtic 1; Great Harwood 1 Alfreton 3; Gretna 2 Congleton 1; Lincoln Utd 3 Leigh 1; Radcliffe 0 Lancaster 0; Warrington 1 Bradford PA 1; Whitley B 0 Eastwood T 0; Workington 1 Netherfield 0; Worksop 4 Fleetwood 1. President's Cup: Semi-final, second leg: Guiseley 1 Hyde 1 (agg 3-1)

BEAZER HOMES

PREMIER DIVISION: Burton 1 Ilkeston 2; Cambridge City 1 Crawley 2; Gloucester 1 Gresley 2; Gravesend and N 4 Dorchester 1; Hastings 1 Newport AFC 1; Merthyr 4 Atherstone 0; Rushden and Diamonds 1 Halesowen 2; Salisbury 0 Chelmsford 0; Stafford 0 Cheltenham 1; VS Rugby 0 Sudbury 2; Worcester 0 Baldock 0. Yesterday: Chelmsford 0 Newport AFC 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rushden and D	33	23	7	3	81	30	76
Halesowen	35	21	10	4	59	32	73
Cheltenham	35	18	8	9	61	49	62
Worcester	34	17	10	7	50	32	61
Merthyr	33	18	3	12	59	49	57
Gloucester	35	16	8	11	57	48	56
Gresley Rovers	31	16	6	9	51	40	54
Hastings	33	13	10	10	56	46	49
Chelmsford	35	11	14	10	40	42	47
Burton	34	12	9	13	46	44	45
Baldock Tn	36	11	11	14	47	48	44
Gravesend and N	33	12	8	13	50	53	44
Salisbury	35	12	7	16	47	58	43
Newport AFC	32	11	9	12	45	45	42
Crawley Town	32	10	11	11	45	47	41
Cambridge City	34	11	7	16	43	53	40
Sudbury Tn	32	10	8	14	51	58	38
Dorchester	31	9	6	16	49	48	33
Atherstone	35	8	9	18	48	69	33
Ilkeston Tn	34	8	7	19	42	78	31
Stafford	34	9	3	22	50	74	30
VS Rugby	34	5	7	22	31	74	22

MIDLAND DIVISION: Bilston 3 Stourbridge 0; Bridgnorth 0 Bedworth 5; Buckingham T 2 Tamworth 1; Corby 2 Sutton Coldfield 2; Dudley T 1 Bury T 1; Grantham 3 Moor Green 0; Kings Lynn 2 Evesham 0; Leicester Utd 1 Paget 1; Nuneaton 0 Rothwell 0; Redditch 1 RC Warwick 1; Solihull 3 Hinckley T 0. Southern division: Bashley 0 Braintree 1; Clevedon 3 Havant 2; Erith and Belvedere 0 Fleet 3; Fareham 2 Cinderford 1; Forest Green 6 Poole 0; Sittingbourne 3 Fisher 0; Tonbridge Angels 3 Yate 4; Trowbridge 0 Newport IoW 2; Waterlooville 3 Weston-super-Mare 1; Weymouth 0 Ashford 2; Witney 3 Margate 2.

ICIS

PREMIER DIVISION: Aylesbury 0 Carshalton 1; Boreham Wood 1 Hitchin 0; Bromley 0 Enfield 1; Dulwich 2 Sutton United 2; Grays 1 Kingstonian 1; Harrow 0 Yeovil 1; Hayes 4 Chertsey 0; Molesey 1 Yeading 2; St Albans 3 Bishop's Stortford 0; Walton and Hersham 1 Purfleet 2; Worthing 0 Hendon 5.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hayes	34	20	10	4	60	26	70
St Albans	36	19	10	7	67	33	67
Enfield	34	20	6	8	60	28	66
Yeovil	34	19	9	6	71	43	66
Dulwich	33	18	10	5	68	45	64
Kingstonian	34	16	11	7	50	28	59
Boreham Wood	30	16	9	5	46	23	57
Carshalton	30	17	5	8	53	38	56
Harrow Borough	33	15	8	10	56	43	53
Sutton Utd	35	14	11	10	60	49	53
Aylesbury	31	14	10	7	49	31	52
Bishop's S	33	13	7	13	44	43	46
Purfleet	34	12	7	15	46	53	43
Chertsey Town	34	11	6	17	39	58	39
Yeading	33	8	11	14	33	46	35
Hitchin	34	9	8	17	35	57	35
Grays	34	8	9	17	34	52	33
Hendon	33	8	7	18	39	53	31
Walton and H	35	7	5	23	35	66	26
Molesey	33	6	6	21	31	69	24
Bromley	35	6	5	24	42	85	23
Worthing	34	4	6	24	32	81	18

FIRST DIVISION: Barton 0 Staines 2; Berkhamsted 2 Wokingham 1; Billericay 1 Aldershot Town 2; Bognor Regis 1 Ruislip Manor 1; Maidenhead United 1 Wembley 0; Marlow 2 Barking 0; Oxford City 4 Heybridge Swifts 3; Thame 2 Abingdon Town 0; Uxbridge 0 Basingstoke 1; Whyteleafe 3 Chesham 4. Second division: Banstead 2 Leatherhead 1; Canvey Island 3 Tilbury 2; Collier Row 2 Cheshunt 2; Croydon 2 Dorking 1; Edgware 0 Egham 2; Hampton 3 Bedford Town 0; Hungerford 0 Ware 1; Saffron Walden 1 Bracknell 1; Witham 0 Hemel Hempstead 2; Wivenhoe 0 Metropolitan Police 1. Third division: Camberley 1 Kingsbury 1; Clapton 0 Windsor and Eton 5; Cove 2 Hertford 0; East Thurrock 0 Wealdstone 3; Flackwell Heath 1 Wingate and Finchley 2; Harefield 1 Aveley 3; Horsham 3 Epsom and Ewell 1; Leighton 5 Hornchurch 0; Lewes 1 Southall 0; Tring 0 Northwood 2.

ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Basildon 1 Romford 3; Bowers 1 Hullbridge Sports 1; Ford United 1 East Ham 0; Maldon 0 Sawbridgeworth 0, Stansted 1 Concord 2.

COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Bedfont 2 Feltham 1; Cobham 4 Westfield 0; DCA Basingstoke 1 Peppard 0; Farnham 1 Ash 1; Godalming and Guildford 1 Cranleigh 0; Hartley Wintney 0 Sandhurst 1; Horley 3 Merstham 1; Netherne 1 Chipstead 2; Raynes Park Vale 3 Walton Casuals 1; Viking Sports 2 Ashford 3.

MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Harpenden 1 Arlesey 2; Dunstable 2 Buckingham Athletic 0; Biggleswade 0 Hoddesdon 1; Potters Bar 2 Royston 1; Langford 0 Toddington 1; Hatfield 3 Welwyn Garden 0; Shillington 3 Letchworth 3. First division: Flamstead 1 Caddington 1; Cranfield 0 Old Dunstablians 0; Walden 1 Bridger Packaging 1; Emberton 2 Mercedes-Benz 4; Leighton 0 Crawley Green 1; Pitstone and Ivinghoe 1 Buckingham 4; Bow Brickhill 0 Scot 3; Old Bradwell 1 Abbey National (MK) 1.

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Backwell 0 Mangotsfield 0; Bideford 1 Tiverton 2; Bridport 1 Torrington 5, Chippenham 4 Elmore 0; Odd Down 1 Barnstaple 3. Yesterday: Bridport 1 Westbury 3; Torrington 1 Chippenham 0

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Clacton 1 Haverhill 0; Cornard 0 Wroxham 4; Hadleigh 0 Halstead 2; Harwich and Parkeston 0 Diss 2; Lowestoft 3 Fakenham 2; March 1 Stowmarket 2; Newmarket 1 Watton 1; Soham 2 Woodbridge 2; Sudbury 1 Great Yarmouth 2; Sudbury 0 Tiptree 5, Wisbech 1 Felixstowe 3.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Aerostructures 0 Wimborne 2; Totton 0 Christchurch 6; Bournemouth 1 Whitchurch 1, Brockenhurst 2 Bemerton Heath Harl 0; Cowes Sports 1 Petersfield 4; Downton 1 Eastleigh 1. East Cowes 0 Lymington 4; Gosport 0 Thatcham 2; Swanage and Herston 1 Ryde Sports 3

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Arundel 1 Southwick 2; Burgess Hill 6 Eastbourne Town 3; Crowborough 1 Pagham 2; Hailsham 4 Hassocks 2; Portfield 0 Langney Sports 1; Ringmer 0 Stamco 1; Shoreham 2 Horsham YMCA 3; Wick 1 Peacehaven and Telscombe 4

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Canterbury 1 Whitstable 2; Chatham 0 Sheppey 4; Crockenhill 0 Dartford 2; Deal 0 Corinthian 0; Faversham 0 Cray 5; Folkestone Invicta 0 Furness 1; Greenwich 1 Tunbridge Wells 2; Thamesmead 1 Herne Bay 1

HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Abingdon United 1 Fairford 1; Almondsbury 1 Kintbury 0, Brackley 2 Tuffley 0; Burnham 2 Carterton 0; Endsleigh 2 Bicester 0; Highworth 0 Cirencester 3, North Leigh 1 Swindon Supermarine 0; Shortwood 2 Banbury 0.

HEREWARD SPORTS UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Bourne 0 Raunds 2; Desborough 1 Boston 1; Eynesbury 1 Long Buckby 1; Holbeach 1 St Neots 0; Kempston 1 Cogenhoe 2; Northampton Spencer 3 Spalding 2; Stamford 1 Wootton 1; S and L Corby 4 Wellingborough 2; Stotfold 0 Potton 0

INTERLINK EXPRESS MIDLAND ALLIANCE: Bolehall Swifts 1 Knypersley 1; Halesowen Harriers 2 Barwell 2; Hinckley Athletic 3 Willenhall 2; Rocester 0 Oldbury 0; Rushall Olympic 0 Chasetown 1; Sandwell 0 Blakenall 1; Stapenhill 2 Boldmere St Michaels 2; Stratford 2 Shepshed Dynamo 1; West Midlands Police 3 Pershore 2

ENDSLEIGH MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: Ansells 1 Bloxwich 8; Alvechurch Villa 0 Meir KA 1; Chelmsley 4 Southam 2; Handrahan Timbers 0 Coventry Sphinx 2; Knowle 2 Highgate 1; Northfield 0 Kings Heath 3; Olton Royale 1 Upton 2; Shirley 4 Coleshill 2; Wellesbourne 2 Studley BKL 1

BANK'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Bloxwich 0 Pelsall Villa 1; Darlaston 4 Wolverhampton Casuals 0; Ettingshall HT 0 Gornal 3; Lichfield 1 Tividale 3; Lye 3 Brierley Hill 2; Malvern 1 Cradley 0; Stourport 0 Wednesfield 3, Walsall Wood 2 Westfields 1.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Belper Town 1 Brigg 1; Glasshoughton Welfare 1 Sheffield 3; Hallam 2 Stocksbridge PS 0; Hatfield Main 1 Goole 1; Hucknall 0 Ossett Albion 1; North Ferriby 2 Armthorpe Welfare 0; Ossett Town 3 Arnold 1; Pickering 4 Ashfield 2; Thackley 3 Maltby MW 0. Postponed: Denaby v Liversedge.

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Chadderton 0 Eastwood Hanley 0; Glossop North End 0 Clitheroe 2; Holker Old Boys 4 Blackpool Rovers 2; Kidsgrove 2 Rossendale 0; Nantwich 3 Newcastle Town 2; Penrith 2 Flixton 1; Prescot 2 Burscough 0; St Helens 3 Darwen 1; Salford 0 Mossley 4; Trafford 4 Skelmersdale 1

FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Consett 0 Guisborough 1; Crook 4 Shildon 0; Durham 2 Dunston Federation 1; Eppleton CW 0 Peterlee 5; Murton 6 Chester-le-Street 0; Seaham Red Star 5 RTM Newcastle 3; Tow Law 0 Billingham Synthonia 1; West Auckland 4 Stockton 2; Whickham 1 Ferryhill 0; Whitby 1 Bedlington 4

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Arsenal 4 Ipswich 0

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Ipswich 2 Gillingham 1, Leyton Orient 2 Chelsea 0; Millwall 1 Charlton Athletic 0; Norwich 3 Fulham 1; Portsmouth 1 Arsenal 0; Queens Park Rangers 1 Cambridge 0; Southend 1 West Ham United 1; Watford 1 Tottenham Hotspur 5. Second division: Colchester 2 Wimbledon 2; Crystal Palace 0 Brighton and Hove 2; Oxford 2 AFC Bournemouth 2; Southampton 2 Reading 2; Swindon 3 Brentford 1. Tottenham Hotspur 2 Luton 0. Postponed: Bristol v Barnet.

ARTHURIAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Foresters 2 Carthusians 1; Lancing 0 Chigwellians 0. First division: Brentwoods 3 Harrovians 1; Haberdashers 4 Haileyburians 6; Harrovians 1 Brentwoods 3; Wellingburians 1 Bradfieldians 1.

OLD BOYS LEAGUE: Premier division: Glyn 1 O Aloysians 1; Latymer 2 Cardinal Manning 3; O Ignatians 1 O Meadonians 3; O Tenisonians 3 O Hamptonians 1. Senior first division: O Kingsburians 1 O Vaughanians 1; O Suttonians 2 O Tiffinians 1; O Tenisonians Res 4 O Salvatorians 2, O Wilsonians 1 Phoenix 1

SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE: First division: Civil Service 4 Crouch End Vampires 0; Norsemen 2 Carshalton 3; O Actonians 2 Nat West Bank 1; South Bank 3 West Wickham 0; Winchmore Hill 0 East Barnet OG 1. Second division: Lloyds Bank 2 Lensbury 1; O Lyonian 3 O Parmiterians 1; Polytechnic 0 Barclays Bank 1. Third division: Alleyn OB 0 Southgate Olympic 1; Broomfield 2 Ibis 1; Cuaco 4 Brentham 1; O Salesians 4 Bank of England 0

SOUTHERN OLYMPIAN LEAGUE: Senior one: Hale End Athletic 2 Ulysses 1; O Owens 2 Parkfield 1; St Mary's College 1 Nottsborough 1. Senior two: Hadley 2 O Bealonians 1; Mill Hill Village 0 Honourable Artillery Co 4; O Finchleians 4 City of London 3; Wandsworth Borough 0 O Woodhouseians 1.

FA WOMEN'S LEAGUE: Northern division: Huddersfield 3 Tranmere 3. Southern division: Berkhamstead 1 Southampton Saints 0.

NATIONAL

LEAGUE OF WALES: Aberystwyth 2 Bangor City 1; Alan Lido 3 Caernarfon 1, Barry 1 Caersws 1, Cemaes Bay 2 Llanelli 0; Connah's Quay 1 Ton Pentre 1, Conwy 2 Cwmbran 3; Inter Cardiff 2 Newtown 2; Llansantffraid 3 Holywell 0; Rhyl 2 Briton Ferry 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Barry Town	31	23	6	2	71	18	75
Conwy	32	17	10	5	84	45	61
Newtown	31	16	10	5	48	22	58
Flint Town	33	17	6	10	66	46	57
Bangor City	33	17	6	10	60	54	57
Caernarfon Town	34	14	11	9	66	72	53
Caersws	30	14	6	10	44	34	48
Cwmbran	30	11	11	8	44	34	44
Connah's Quay	31	10	13	8	52	46	43
Porthmadog	34	11	10	13	49	50	43
Ebbw Vale	30	11	9	10	39	35	42
Inter Cardiff	32	11	9	12	49	49	42
Llansantffraid	32	11	8	13	53	48	41
Holywell	32	10	6	16	47	61	36
Aberystwyth	33	9	8	16	47	57	35
Ton Pentre	32	7	14	11	37	49	35
Cemaes Bay	31	10	5	16	47	65	35
Rhyl	32	9	7	16	38	65	34
Briton Ferry	32	7	8	17	47	79	29
Llanelli	33	6	7	20	43	76	25
Alan Lido	32	6	6	20	24	60	24

HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Buckie Thistle 2 Rothes 2; Elgin 3 Lossiemouth 0; Fort William 0 Brora 4; Peterhead 2 Clachnacuddin 1; Wick Academy 1 Fraserburgh 0

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Ards 0 Portadown 2; Glenavon 1 Crusaders 1; Glentoran 2 Cliftonville 1; Linfield 2 Bangor 1

POOLS CHECK

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	2	1	1	1

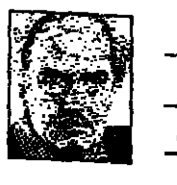
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
3	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	2	1	1

41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58
3	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	1	1

FORECAST: Telephone claims are required for 23 and 24 points. The dividend forecast is very good with 8 score draws and 2 no-score draws.

هذا : من الاصل

Ministry's decision faces legal challenge



Brian Clarke says anglers feel commercial salmon interests are getting favoured treatment

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) is nobody's favourite department just now. The beef crisis is simply the latest issue to focus attention on perceived conflicts of interest between MAFF's role in managing the wishes of the commercial food lobby and its responsibility to the public at large.

Many issues exist that seem to reflect such conflicts. Some of them involve environmentalists and conservationists, not excluding anglers, as a report in *The Times*, on the damage that the farmed signal crayfish is doing in fresh waters, recently illustrated.

One just coming to a head is the long-running battle over salmon licences and the balance that the ministry is striking between the interests of the commercial salmon netters, on the one hand, and those of the environment and individual salmon anglers, on the other.

The Salmon and Trout Association (S and TA) is so incensed by the ministry's latest decision that it is seeking a judicial review of it — an unprecedented step. The S and TA believes that the ministry is deliberately increasing licence fees for anglers so that it can hold commercial netting licences down — and that this may be illegal.

'Problem originates in the collapse of stocks

The problem has its origins in the collapse of salmon stocks. Possible reasons include cyclical changes in sea temperatures and salinity — about which, if true, there is little that puny man can do. Pollution and habitat degredation in rivers are likely to be factors in some places. Over-exploitation by high seas netsmen means that fewer fish return to the countries of their birth.

Indiscriminate exploitation of salmon off our own coasts by net fisheries may be making fatal and, as yet, unidentified inroads into the stocks on specific rivers.

The National Rivers Authority (NRA), which formally becomes absorbed into the new Environment Agency today, has long acknowledged the decline. It has sought to ease matters at a local level by introducing millions of young farmed salmon to the wild; by tagging individual salmon and monitoring their movements; by cleaning up spawning redds and the rest. This year, the NRA puts salmon conservation on a formal, national basis by introducing a management plan covering the whole of England and Wales.

It is all long-term, labour-intensive work and it costs money. The NRA's fisheries group, which carries out the work, depends largely on MAFF funds. The ministry has been reducing these funds each year — from £13.4 million in 1991-92 to £7.5 million this year and £6.5 million next.

One way that the NRA has sought to make up the loss has been by reducing head count. Indeed, there are concerns, among other things, about its ability in future to meet its fisheries obligations. The NRA has also sought to increase income. Together, commercial salmon netsmen and salmon anglers pay just 11 per cent of the cost of the work of salmon fisheries. How much more could be taken and on the basis of what kind of split?

As a first measure, a flat licence charge of £45-a-year was imposed on salmon anglers. This licence is not a permission to fish; it is a form of taxation that has to be paid just to assemble a rod by the water. All other costs, including those charged by owners of fisheries, have to be paid by the angler, in addition.

The study of netting licences, which are permissions to fish, was completed last year. It had the effect of highlighting what had long been known — that 700 commercial licence-holders take more salmon in England and Wales than all anglers put together: 56 per cent of the total catch by one measure, around 70 per cent by another. Yet the netsmen were contributing just 20 per cent of licence income, anglers 80 per cent.

Last autumn, the NRA's proposals were published. The angler's rod licence would go up from £45 to £55 — and eventually to £75. The maximum charge for a commercial net — £800, regardless of the number of salmon caught — would be increased by £250. Increases on other nets would be lower, in some cases as small as a few pounds.

At the same time, some important principles were proposed: that, in future, each group should pay according to the benefit it received from the NRA's work, as reflected in catches; that the differentials should be shrunk and that licences should, over time, be levied on a fair and consistent basis.

Furore resulted. The NRA pointed to the average rate of increases — around 60 per cent. Anglers pointed out that the hike in rod licence fees actually increased the differential between the two groups.

After harsh words on both sides, the NRA's figures went to MAFF for approval. The ministry recently announced its decision. Increases proposed for anglers would be accepted in full. Increases proposed for many commercial netsmen would be halved. Licences for nets catching hundreds of salmon a year would go up by £120-a-year, at most. This while anglers who catch a handful of fish a year are being urged, by the NRA itself, to return their fish to the water for the sake of the species, while every net-caught salmon is, by definition, being killed for sale.

It is not only the £10 increase that has so incensed the S and TA. MAFF is already seeking ways of raising a further £2 million a year by imposing new charges on rod-fishery owners; charges that will inevitably be passed on to anglers.

☐ *Brian Clarke's fishing column appears on the first Monday of each month.*

Falkus obituary, page 19

WHAT AM I DOING HERE ?
SEE OLIVER & CLAIRE ON PAGE 36.

Thompson's production line making net gains

By Stuart Jones

SPORT IN SCHOOLS

ROGER THOMPSON has had to modify his ideal. He set out to build "a factory of Davis Cup players", fit, perhaps, to conquer the world. Instead, he has redefined his boundaries and, in establishing Repton as the school with the best tennis players, merely conquered the country.

The process did not begin immediately he was appointed as the master in charge two decades ago. His ambitious plan to run a programme throughout the year was rejected until David Jewel was appointed headmaster of the Derbyshire school in 1979. "To me, he was a jewel," Thompson said. Permission was granted for a scheme that, within a year, transformed Repton from "nothing" to the second best school in England behind Millfield. "I knew we could do that because the standard was desperately low," he said. Sixteen years later, he does not consider it to be appreciably higher.

His anger was barely concealed as he revealed the widespread lack of initiative. "There are three other schools doing these programmes now," he said. "There needs to be 50 or 60. It is pathetic." He is opposed on two fronts, by public apathy and by parental concern. "Tim Henman [the nation's No 1] is probably our best [home-grown] prospect since Buster Mottram 20 years ago. Yet, if you went onto the streets of Derby, they wouldn't have a clue who he is. The concept of tennis is still Wimbledon, grass and summer.

"Some parents were looking for this kind of scheme, but others consider it undesirable to concentrate too much on one sport. To succeed, though, you have to be so selfish as to be highly unusual. Also, masters who know much about tennis are relatively few."

Thompson, 50, does not pretend to be an expert himself. He did captain Derbyshire, however, and, as a regular visitor to tournaments around the country, he can clearly spot talent. His first three recruits were from Bristol, Bolton and Bakewell. Matthew Dix, 14, Nigel Beedham and Duncan Ashworth, both 16, won the Youll Cup, the public schools championship that Repton had never held, and finished as runners-up in the Glanvill Cup, the national tournament, in 1980.

In the past 15 years, Repton has regained the Youll Cup 11 times and held the Glanvill Cup on nine occasions. Thompson appreciates the financial support given to him by Wilson, the only leading company to respond to his requests for sponsorship. Wilson's representative was Tony Pickard, later to coach Stefan Edberg and Petr Korda and to captain the Great Britain Davis Cup team. "I said I would like to produce a factory of Davis Cup players," Thompson said. "He told me if I produced one player in ten years, it would be a miracle. I thought he was being unduly pessimistic, but, as it turned out, he was quite right."

A couple of old boys have featured in the competition, but Thompson admits that Dermot Sweeney and Mark Choy, who represented Zambia and Singapore, respectively, "would not have been anywhere near getting into the British team".

DOUG MARKE

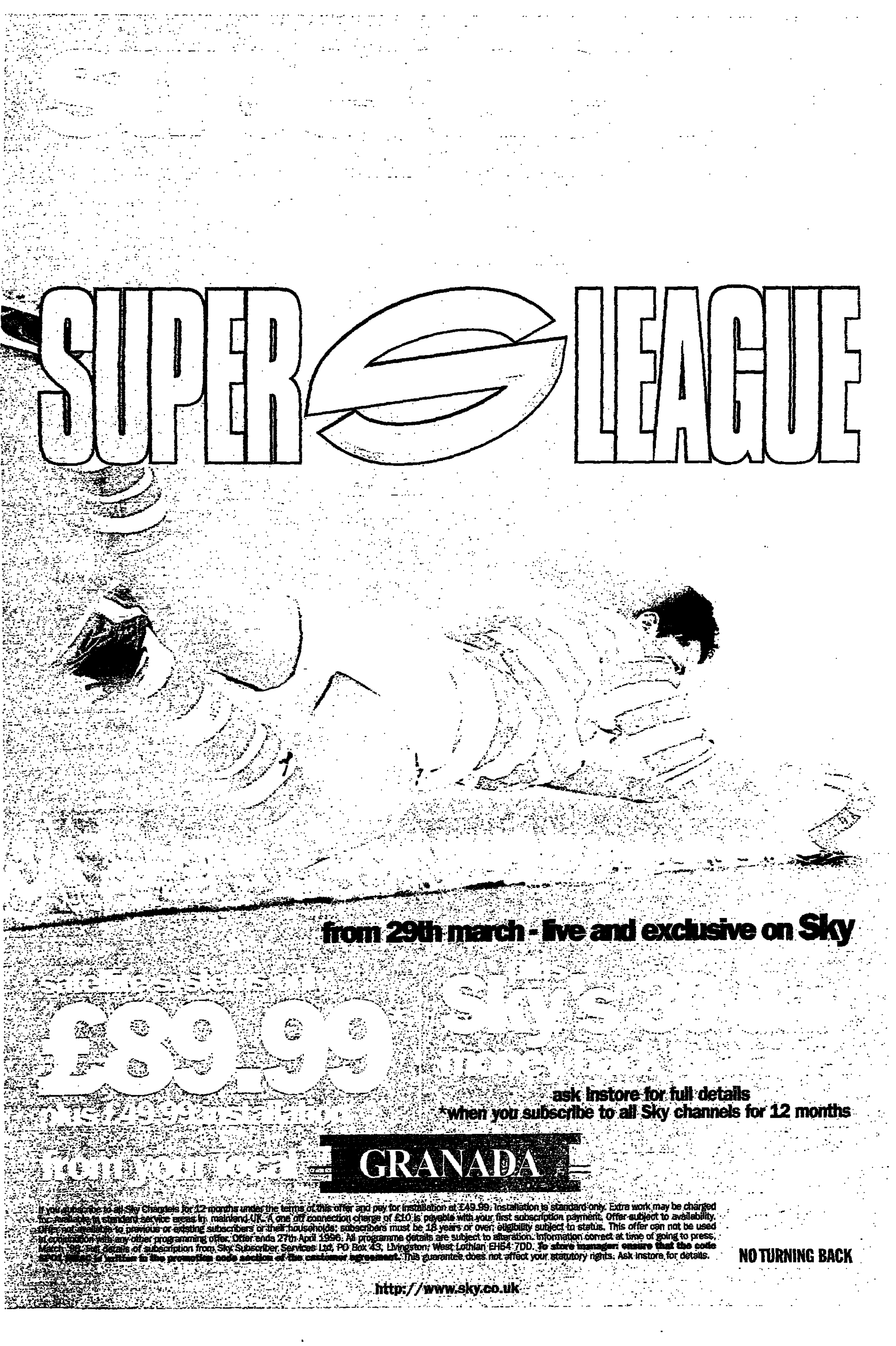
Repton's tennis squad of Marc Powell, left, Adrian Barnes and Jamie Drummond

Repton's coaches have been of notable quality. They have included Keith Reynolds, now with the Lawn Tennis Association, Ashley Broomhead, Andrew Jarrett, Leighton Alfred, who works with Miles Maclagan, Steve Heron and, for the past two years, Nick Fulwood.

Thompson estimates that his present group of pupils could be the best for four years. Adrian Barnes, 16, has already played for Britain and Jamie Drummond and Marc Powell recently beat the top Millfield doubles pair. None of them, however, is committed to a future in the game.

The three prodigies opted to go to university in the United States. "There was nowhere for them to go here, although centres are being set up this year at Loughborough, Bath, Stirling and Cardiff," Thompson said.

Thompson has not yet foresaken his own ideal. "I want to establish a place where this operation could continue but alongside a full-time squad who didn't have to pursue academic work and the facilities could also be used by local schools within 40 miles," he said. "Repton is perhaps too limited a market."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NO TURNING BACK

http://www.sky.co.uk

Leeds contemplate bleak summer in the shadows

Leeds 18
Warrington 22

By Christopher Irvine

IN KEEPING with what passed for pre-match entertainment at Headingley yesterday, Leeds were botched and amateurish. A long and troubled summer is in store if their start to the Stones Super League is not followed by a dramatic improvement.

It was unclear if the PA announcer was referring to the rugby league in his address to the 10,036 crowd — 500 fewer than for the corresponding fixture last year — as they streamed away. "There will be more fun and entertainment here on Easter Monday," he said, to which one irate supporter replied: "Aye, and I won't be here."

A young Warrington side toughed out an encouraging win, while Leeds were left to reflect on the worst possible response to their surrender to Bradford Bulls in the Challenge Cup semi-final eight days before.

Perhaps Leeds should have known that something was amiss from the start, besides being without half their side and with no Schofield, Innes and Lowes to call upon. Parachutists supposed to land with the match ball never showed, the kick-off was repeatedly delayed and more than once the cheerleaders went into their try-scoring routines prematurely.

However, the order of priority for getting things right at Leeds in the new competition must be the team. Here, spending is the problem. Dean Bell, the Leeds head coach, is resigned to working with what he has got, and that appears to be very little. The need for an experienced scrum half and full back, where Holroyd and Gibbons are filling in, was further highlighted yesterday.

Bell's downbeat mood was in sharp contrast to that of Alex Murphy, the Warrington team manager. "If you'd told me three months ago we'd be coming to Leeds and winning, I'd have been very surprised," he said. "We've got a lot of good young kids in Harris, Sculthorpe, Penny and Masi. Get four world-class players around this lot and watch us then."

Warrington lost the last seven of their matches in the centenary championship, and suffered an early defeat, by Leeds, in the Challenge Cup. That gave Murphy and John Dorahy, the coach, the benefit of two months' preparation. "Nobody wanted to come to training here at first," Murphy said. "The major job was raising team spirit and this can only help."

The fact that Warrington held out for the last 15 minutes when Leeds came back to within four points spoke volumes for their new-found resilience. Leeds had their opportunities, especially when Jones entered the sin-bin, but a try by Fozzard was all that they could muster.

Leeds were busy going nowhere when their defensive frailties were first exposed. Harris and the rejuvenated Ford worked a gap on the left and Finau's quick hands supplied Mafi, his fellow Tongan, with a straightforward jog to the line.

No sooner had Wainwright come off the substitutes bench than his gangly frame was beating a path down the middle. Harris, in the space that Leeds allowed him, needed no second invitation, twice side-stepping static cover for a try to which he added the second of his five goals.

The Leeds cheerleaders were in danger of frostbite when, in the 34th minute, Mann drew Warrington's cover for Iro to pick his spot. It was a brief attacking gesture in a dismal half and the game appeared to be out of reach shortly afterwards as Sculthorpe evaded his markers and Knott ran in the try.

In spite of tries by Mann and Fozzard, the stuttering revival by Leeds was not sufficient to prevent a deserved Warrington victory.

SCORERS: Leeds: Tries: Iro, Mann, Fozzard. Goals: Holroyd (3). Warrington: Tries: Mafi, Harris, Knott. Goals: Harris (5).

LEEDS: A Gibbons; J Fallon, K Iro, P Hassan, P Gleadhill, F Cummins, G Holroyd (sub: M Vassilakopoulos, 73min), N Harmon, M Shaw, H Howard (sub B McDermott, 20, sub: Howard, 53), G Mann, M Schultz (sub N Fozzard, 23), A Morley

WARRINGTON: L Penny, M Forster, C Rudd, S Finau, M Mafi; I Harris, M Ford, M Hilton, J Hough (sub: K Shelford, 77), G Chambers (sub M Jones, 22), I Knott (sub M Wainwright, 22), P Cullen (sub: Knott, 47), P Sculthorpe

Referee: R Smith.

Clarke's career put in doubt by neck injury

A NECK injury sustained in Australia may prevent Phil Clarke, the former Wigan and Great Britain back-row forward, from resuming his rugby league career (Christopher Irvine writes).

Clarke, 24, who joined Sydney City Roosters last May, cracked a vertabra in a tackle early in a match against North Queensland on Saturday. The injury was identified at the spinal unit at the Royal North Shore Hospital in Sydney, where doctors said that Clarke risked permanent disability if he played again.

Clarke made the first of 16 appearances for Britain in 1990 and was in the England team that lost the World Cup final to Australia last October. His father, Colin, also a former Wigan player, was travelling to Australia yesterday, unaware of his son's accident.

Four tries by Danny Arnold and three from Paul Newlove helped St Helens to launch their Super League campaign in emphatic style yesterday with a 62-0 victory away to Workington.

A new-look London Broncos also started the season in dynamic fashion, winning 24-22 away to Halifax Blue Sox on Saturday.

Superlative Wigan revel in Bear-baiting

Simon Barnes sees a new competition follow a familiar rugby league script

SIMON WILKINSON

Radlinski powers through for one of Wigan's 11 tries at Boundary Park

Oldham rugby league team, the artists formerly known as the Roughyeds (a dialect term for hard-men, harum-scarums and larrikins), have reinvented themselves in response to the challenges of the game in its new avatar as the Super League. They are now Oldham Bears.

What bear did they have in mind, I wonder? Sooty, perhaps? Yet they lacked Sooty's certainty of his own identity. On reflection, it was apparent that their ursine role model was Paddington, who, as all lovers of literature will recall, makes his first appearance wearing a luggage label on which are enscribed the unforgettable words: "Please look after this bear."

Wigan looked after them, all right. They went to Boundary Park on Saturday night to instigate the new era of rugby league, and left after winning 56-16 … and now for something completely the same — the utter dominance of Wigan in the sport of rugby league.

Wigan do not have a nickname, though my father sometimes refers to them as the cherry-an'-whites. Well, how do you find a suitable nickname for such as Wigan? Wigan Victors? A tautology. I know that they lost their Challenge Cup match against Salford, end of an era and all that, and I know that the air is full of rumours of ruinous feuds, dressing-room strife, ageing heroes and bitter recriminations; but, in a first half in which they rattled up 36 points without reply, they were cold assassins, slayers of the hapless, the Wigan of old. What could be better than that?

Well, parity of competition, perhaps. The honing of rugby league to an elite of a dozen clubs was supposed to be a phasing out of such mismatches. Oldham were dreadful. Still, as footballers say in their mystifying way (how could a door be late?), "early doors".

How, then, could we tell that this was a new dawn for the sport? Wigan beating Oldham very, very easily is not the stuff of revolution. Well, it was a cool, spring night, the ball was dry and the pitch fast. Rugby league will now always (however long that is) be played in such conditions: flair, speed and handling will have the edge on slogging attrition. The mushy-peas pitch of late January is a thing of the past. To tell the truth, I will rather miss the matches of head-banging bloody-mindedness between identical sides of New Guinea Mudmen … but onwards and upwards.

How else could we tell that this was a thoroughly modern occasion, a great move into the future, an example of sparkling marketing? Simple: there were cheer-leaders. A macho nickname, and cheerleaders — two snippets of paste-on Americana. Modern? It is the America of the Fifties: bobby-soxers and rah-rah bears. If this is the cutting edge of sporting post-modernism, then Grease is a biting satire on contemporary mores.

Yet cheer-leaders are a sine qua non of modern sporting life in this country. They are required not to cheer, but to deliver the message that the marketing department is really trying awfully hard. Cheerleaders are an aspect of sporting America's ancient history.

Yet, after the bear bit — yes, there was a man dressed up as a bear — and the cheer-leaders and the other bits of outdated Americana, there was — yes, rugby league. What we had was tripe and onions in a sesame seed bun, garnished with to-may-to and thousand islands dressing.

Good sport is not about buns and garnish. It is about meat: the "mad cow" disease of competition. Wigan showed all that. A pair of second-half tries from Edwards said more about sport than a thousand pom-pom-waving little girls or a million marketing men.

The occasion was not really about the ringing in of the new, nor even about the — distinctly useful — novelty of judgment by television replay. The first try of the night was, historians, the first to be confirmed by television. Offiah touched down and, after replay officials decided that Quinnell had not, after all, knocked on, he had his score.

The real drama of the occasion was Wigan's search for a new certainty after their shattering Challenge Cup defeat. On Good Friday, they have a rather more searching task when they play St Helens, fancied by many as inaugural Super League champions. It needs no garnish to make that encounter look appetising.

The point is not the new dawn, it is that rugby league is, and has always been, whatever time of year you play it, a bloody good game. Or product, as we are supposed to call it these days. Exit Wigan pursued — but not terribly closely — by a bear.

SCORERS: Oldham Bears: Tries: Abram, Myler, Maloney. Goals: Maloney (2). Wigan: Tries: Connolly (3), Radlinski (2), Offiah (2), Edwards (2), Paul, Hall. Goals: Farrell (6)

OLDHAM BEARS: P Atcheson; A Leuila, P Topping, D Abram (sub: A Palmore, 30min), R Myler; F Maloney, M Crompton, I Sherratt, J Clarke, J Temu (sub: I Gildart, 59), G Lord, J Fairmalo, D Bradbury (sub: M Munroe, 22)

WIGAN: K Radlinski; J Robinson, V Tuigamala (sub: R Smythe, 51), G Connolly, M Offiah; H Paul (sub: A Johnson, 65), S Edwards; N Cowie, M Hall, T O'Connor (sub, K Skerrett, 27), S Quinnell (sub: S Houghton, 27), M Cassidy, A Farrell

Referee: D Campbell

Boys of summer seek to banish strike memories

Keith Blackmore says expectations are high as baseball's first pitch is thrown

Baseball, like cricket, is a numbers game and every season brings its "firsts". This year, the first came with the first pitch of the first game. When Randy Johnson, of Seattle Mariners, opened the game against Chicago White Sox yesterday, it was the first time that Major League baseball had been played in March.

Television has brought the early start, but the rush back to the diamond makes a welcome contrast to last season, when the first pitch was delayed because of a lingering players' strike that reduced fixture lists to 144 games.

The new season will be the usual 162 games and there may lie the best hope of the kind of summer needed to banish the bitter memories of the strike. Two years ago, Matt Williams and Barry Bonds, of San Francisco Giants, and Ken Griffey, of Seattle, all reached August with a realistic chance of breaking one of the greatest records: Roger Maris's mark of 61 home runs in a single season. Then came the strike, ending their hopes and the 1994 season.

Maris's record has stood since 1961, but his heroics are still largely unsung. Partly, this is because Maris, a dull man, was passing a mark left in 1927 by Babe Ruth, whose many faults certainly did not include dullness. More important, it may be because Maris had taken advantage of a season expanded to 162 games: in Ruth's day, teams played only 154. Maris's record, it has often been said, should carry an asterisk.

It may not be needed much longer, anyway. Last year, Albert Belle, of Cleveland Indians, crashed 50 homers in a shortened season and Mark McGwire, of Oakland Athletics, who lost two months to injury, hammered a homer in every 8.1 at bats, the fastest rate in history.

McGwire has more injury problems already, but Belle, Griffey, Williams and Bonds will all hope to take a tilt at Maris this summer. If any of them get close, the national and international attention that they are likely to attract will rival that attending Cal Ripken's successful attempt on the record for consecutive appearances.

Ripken's record, and the graceful way that he attained it, was the highlight of last year and went some way to repairing the damage inflicted on the national pastime by the strike, but it obscured the other main features of a fascinating season: the final metamorphosis of Atlanta Braves from perennial runners-up to champions and the startling rise of the Indians. The Braves have retained the nucleus of the team that won the World Series against Cleveland last October, but the cost of doing so has prevented them from adding much to their playing strength.

They should still win their division, but may be pipped in the National play-offs by either Houston Astros or Los Angeles Dodgers.

The Indians, meanwhile, have added to a team that was good enough to dominate the American League last year. Their prime acquisition is Jack McDowell, the ace of New York Yankees' pitching staff last season, giving the Indians, already the best hitting team in baseball, a pitching staff to match.

Little wonder, then, that every seat has already been sold for all of their 81 home games this summer.

If anyone is to stop them from reaching another World Series, it may be Baltimore Orioles. Last year, Orioles supporters had to make do with Ripken's exploits; this year, nothing less than a divisional championship will do. Under new management (Davey Johnson, who has the best record of any manager in either league), they have added four frontline pitchers and acquired Roberto Alomar, an outstanding second baseman, to complete one of the best infields in the history of the game. Only the Indians should be strong enough to stop them.

Steelers reinforced by show of mettle

By Norman de Mesquita

SHEFFIELD Steelers were made to struggle to the bitter end before completing British ice hockey's grand slam, and retaining their championship title, at Wembley Arena yesterday. A 2-1 win in a penalty shoot-out, after a scoreless over-time session failed to resolve a 3-3 scheduled-time scoreline, finally ended the resistance of Nottingham Panthers.

With barely 12 hours' rest after the physically punishing semi-final against Durham Wasps on Saturday, and with a smaller squad than their opponents, the Panthers showed remarkable resilience, although, when Tim Cranston scored for the Steelers in the second minute of the second period, to add to goals by Andre Malo and Scott Neil in the first, a Nottingham comeback appeared unlikely.

A. J. Kelham, Randall Weber and Neil Morgan scored in the space of 94 seconds late in the second period, however, and the Steelers realised that they had a game on their hands. Indeed, Mike Blaisdell, the Nottingham player/coach, spurned a fine opportunity in the first minute of over-time.

SCORERS: Sheffield: A Malo, S Neil, T Cranston. Nottingham: A J Kelham, R Weber, N Morgan

McCullough moving up to take on Hamed

By Srikumar Sen, Boxing Correspondent

WAYNE McCULLOUGH, the World Boxing Council bantamweight champion, could take on Naseem Hamed, who holds the World Boxing Organisation featherweight title, in the summer. If talk between Matt Tinley, McCullough's manager, and Frank Warren, Hamed's promoter, can be successfully concluded, they would meet at light-featherweight and the bout would be held at an outdoor venue in Dublin.

Brendan Ingle, Hamed's manager, who was at ringside to see McCullough retain his title against Jose Luis Bueno, of Mexico, on Saturday in Dublin, said that he would be happy to take Hamed to Ireland. For all the hype, the bout would be a short, sharp one and should end the argument in favour of the Sheffield man.

"It would be a good pay day for McCullough," Ingle said. "Naz will beat him up in the first round and knock him out in the second and that'll be the last time you'll see McCullough."

Ingle could be right. Hamed could do McCullough a service by retiring him. In three bouts, against Victor Rabanales, Yasuei Yakushiji and Bueno, McCullough has taken more blows to the head than most boxers take in a whole career. McCullough is at serious risk, mainly because he refuses to go down. After his bout with Bueno, he was taken to hospital with a perforated eardrum after hearing a shrill noise in his head from the second round.

The sensitive documentary, Down the Street of Dreams (Double Band Films), to be shown on BBC2 next Sunday, leaves one with a tinge of sadness to see McCullough having to fight so hard for a living. The crowd of 5,000 at The Point cheered wildly when McCullough's hand was raised at the end after a split decision over Bueno, but those closer to the action were worried about his future safety.

McCullough struggled to make the bantamweight limit and looked drained from the first bell. He will now give up his title to meet Hamed.

McCullough: points victory

KELSO

THUNDERER

2.00 Balhernoch. 2.30 Cool Weather. 3.00 DANCING DOVE (nap). 3.30 Abercromby Comet. 4.00 Wild Rose Of York. 4.30 Royal Jester. 5.00 Sarmatian.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 4.30 ROYAL JESTER.

Carl Evans: 3.30 Abercromby Comet. 4.30 Hedley Mill.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (GOOD IN PLACES) SIS

2.00 PETER ALLAN NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (£2,775: 2m 110yd) (10 runners)

1 214F BALHERNOCH 38 (F) T Easterby 7-11-8 P Niven [illegible]
2 -413 ADAMATIC 105 (BF,F) R Allan 5-11-2 B Storey —
3 -602 CURRENT MONY 10 M Hammond 5-11-2 R Burns (7) 96
4 P-0P LUCKER 107 D Eddy 9-11-2 B Harding (3) —
5 0205 MAJOR SIOUX 26 Mrs S Smith 5-11-2 R Guest 73
6 2266 PEGASUS BAY 104 W Haigh 5-11-2 D Byrne 84
7 3620 SINGING SAND 13 P Monteith 6-11-2 T Jenks 90
8 3P0 TEA SHOCK 24 P Monteith 5-11-2 P Carberry 67
9 00 THE NEXT WALTZ 76 L Lungo 5-11-2 T Reed 69
10 05 FLOWER OF DUNBLANE 37 Mrs D Thomson 5-10-11 M Foster 70

7-4 Balhernoch, 7-2 Current Mony, 4-1 Adamatic, 6-1 Pegasus Bay, Singing Sand, 16-1 Major Sioux, The Next Waltz, 25-1 others.

2.30 GLENGOYNE HIGHLAND MALT NOVICES CHASE TAMEROSIA SERIES (Qualifier: £4,038: 3m 1f) (11)

1 18P2 VAVASIR 23 (CD,F,S) Miss L Russell 10-12-0 M Foster 89
2 1445 ANDROS GALE 27 (B,D,F) J Johnson 7-11-8 P Carberry 84
3 4123 RUSSIAN CASTLE 60 (G) J Wade 7-11-8 K Jones 86
4 0/P ABDULLAH BULBUL 14 J Bewley 8-11-2 D Parker —
5 0F33 CALLERNOY 14 (S) D Lamb 6-11-2 A Manners 79
6 0320 COOL WEATHER 14 P Cheesbrough 8-11-2 R Supple [illegible]
7 5604 EXCISE MAN 7 (G) F Walton 8-11-2 Mr A Robson 85
8 -2P3 FARMER'S HAND 3 B Ellison 9-11-2 Mr K Whelan (5) 89
9 R-6U MONT MIRAIL 7 (G) A Whillans 10-11-2 B Harding —
10 F1U4 WILLIE SPARKLE 105 (F,G,S) Mrs S Bradburne 10-11-2 T Reed 85
11 0-42 HOWCLEUCH 14 J Oliver 9-10-11 B Storey 93

4-1 Russian Castle, 5-1 Vavasir, 11-2 Willie Sparkle, 6-1 Farmer's Hand, 8-1 Andros Gale, Howcleuch, 10-1 others

3.00 CROALL BRYSON HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,827: 2m 6f 110yd) (10)

1 0301 COQUI LANE 10 (CD,G,S) J Dow 9-12-2 D Parker (3) 92
2 5665 DANCING DOVE 10 (CD,F,G) G Richards 8-11-7 B Harding (3) 94
3 U1U1 ERZADJAN 13 (C,G,S) Mrs M Reveley 6-11-6 P Niven [illegible]
4 2562 URBAN DANCING 28 (BF,G) B Ellison 7-11-4 Mrs J Speight 90
5 2282 RYE CROSSING 33 (F) T Easterby 6-11-0 P Carberry 95
6 2300 SHANNON GLEN 32 (B,F,S) M Smith 10-10-13 G Harker 98
7 2/P ARIADLER 16 (CD,B) P Cheesbrough 8-10-11 R Supple —
8 1-00 CASUAL PASS 7 (C,F,B,S) L Lungo 13-10-0 F Perratt 93
9 3601 D'ARBLAY STREET 27 (B,G,S) W Kemp 7-10-0 S McDougall 95
10 0024 CELTIC BREEZE 14 (V,D,G,S) Mrs A Naughton 13-10-0 M Foster 89

9-4 Erzadjan, 4-1 Coqui Lane, 9-2 Rye Crossing, 6-1 Urban Dancing, 7-1 D'Arblay Street, 10-1 Dancing Dove, 16-1 others.

3.30 HORSE AND HOUND BUCCLEUCH CUP MAIDEN HUNTERS CHASE (Amateurs: £2,433: 3m 1f) (11)

1 PP/1 ABERCROMBY COMET 23P (G) S Shirley-Beavan 11-12-0 Miss S Forster (7) —
2 4332 CANISTER CASTLE 30P Miss Z Green 8-12-0 R Shiels (5) —
3 /3P- DAMNIFICATION 373P (G) J Hope 10-12-0 A Parker (7) 95
4 P5F2 DEDAY 16 (G) Mrs H Graham 9-12-0 M Bradburne (7) [illegible]
5 00-P RALLYING CRY 16P Mrs J Seymour 8-12-0 T Scott (7) 82
6 5222 ROYALIST 9P (F,G,S) R Kyle 10-12-0 C Storey (5) —
7 -F11 WORTHY SPARK 9P (F,G) A Balmer 11-12-0 P Craggs —
8 2-12 MINIBRIG 16P (G,S) Mrs J Clark 10-11-9 Miss P Robson (7) —
9 -PP0 MONYRUIT 9P A Wight 7-11-9 A Robson (7) —
10 5PF0 PANTO LADY 16 (F) Mrs K Lamb 10-11-9 Miss S Lamb (7) 68
11 3530 WEDDICAR LADY 23P K Robson 10-11-9 R Morgan 72

5-2 Deday, 4-1 Royalist, 9-2 Worthy Spark, 5-1 Minibrig, 8-1 Abercromby Comet, 10-1 Weddicar Lady, 12-1 Canister Castle, 14-1 others

4.00 TIM DOODY MARES ONLY NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,682: 2m 110yd) (11)

1 202F SHONARA'S WAY 13 (BF) P Monteith 5-12-0 T Jenks 94
2 5240 WILD ROSE OF YORK 24 (CD,F,G) P Monteith 5-11-13 P Carberry [illegible]
3 R160 BOLANEY GIRL 47 (D,F) F Murtagh 7-11-5 B Harding (3) 98
4 0600 DIDDY RYMER 21 Mrs S Smith 6-11-3 R Guest 88
5 034P COPPERHURST 9 (G) W Kemp 5-11-1 S McDougall 88
6 0-30 STYLISH ROSE 16 P Cheesbrough 8-10-13 R Supple 89
7 4440 PEGGY GORDON 31 Mrs D Thomson 5-10-13 C McCormack (7) 90
8 0565 LEVEL EDGE 14 (B) R Alexander 5-10-12 D Thomas (7) 89
9 5-P0 AMNESIA 27 (V) Mrs S Bradburne 5-10-7 A Watt (7) 90
10 0605 MISS GREENYARDS 51 A Whillans 5-10-0 D Parker (3) —
11 4300 DOLLY PRICES 14 (B) W Smith 11-10-0 S Taylor (7) 86

9-4 Shonara's Way, 4-1 Stylish Rose, 9-2 Wild Rose Of York, 6-1 Bolaney Girl, 8-1 Peggy Gordon, 12-1 Copperhurst, 16-1 others.

4.30 CHARLIE BROWN SCOTTISH CHAMPION HUNTERS CHASE (Amateurs: £3,485: 3m 1f) (11)

1 41U3 GREEN TIMES 16 (D,G,S) Mrs Jane Storey 11-12-7 R Ford (7) 85
2 321F OFF THE BRU 3 (CD,G) Mrs S Bradburne 11-12-7 M Bradburne (7) 79
3 56PP LOUGHLINSTOWN BOY 18 (F,G) J Riddell 11-12-4 R Hale (5) 90
4 36-0 THE GREEN FOOL 42 (F,G) V Thompson 9-12-4 M Thompson (3) 71
5 3P-1 ELLERTON HILL 44P (D,F,G,S) C Dennis 13-12-0 S Swiers 84
6 -221 ROYAL JESTER 10 (CD,F,G,S) Mrs J Storey 12-12-0 C Storey (5) [illegible]
7 -462 RUBER 9P (CD,F,G,S) R Thomson 9-12-0 Miss P Robson (7) 93
8 53F- SECRET SCEPTRE 494 (G,S) R Bartlett 9-12-0 N Wilson (5) —
9 -112 WASHAKIE 16 (BF,F,G,S) F Walton 11-12-0 J Walton 98
10 -11U HEDLEY MILL 28 (F,G) J Hope 8-11-13 A Parker (7) 90
11 1313 PARLEBIZ 10 (F,S) A Wight 7-11-9 A Robson (7) 74

4-1 Off The Bru, 9-2 Royal Jester, 5-1 Ellerton Hill, 6-1 Washakie, 8-1 Green Times, Hedley Mill, 10-1 others.

5.00 CHEVIOT RENTALS (MODULAR MARQUEES) HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,697: 2m 110yd) (4)

1 2066 STAY AWAKE 13 (CD,F,G,S) Mrs M Reveley 10-11-10 P Niven 88
2 4501 FLASH OF REALM 25 (V,CD,F,G,S) P Monteith 10-11-3 T Jenks 90
3 00P4 BALLON 24 (D,G,S) M Dods 6-10-8 B Storey [illegible]
4 -065 SARMATIAN 24 (D,BF,F,G) M Hammond 5-10-0 B Harding (3) 94

9-4 Ballon, 5-2 Stay Awake, 3-1 Sarmatian, 7-2 Flash Of Realm.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: Mrs J Storey, 5 winners from 9 runners, 55.6%; Mrs M Reveley, 43 from 138, 31.2%; G Richards, 30 from 123, 24.4%; Miss L Russell, 3 from 13, 23.1%; Mrs S Smith, 5 from 25, 20.0%.

JOCKEYS: P Niven, 51 winners from 139 rides, 36.7%; P Carberry, 4 from 19, 21.1%; T Jenks, 3 from 19, 15.8%; B Storey, 25 from 167, 15.0%; R Guest, 4 from 36, 11.1%; B Harding, 5 from 48, 10.4%.

SOUTHWELL

THUNDERER

2.20 Mels Baby. 2.50 Amoeba. 3.20 Desert Lore. 3.50 Dancing Cavalier. 4.20 Anistop. 4.50 Zacaroon.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.50 Infiraaj. 3.50 SIEGE PERILOUS (nap).

GOING: STANDARD SIS
DRAW: 6F-1M, LOW NUMBERS BEST

2.20 KING ARTHUR MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,381: 7f) (7 runners)

1 20-4 CHERRY GARDEN 9 T Naughton 9-0 J Weaver 7
2 006- MELS BABY 168 J Eyre 9-0 R Lappin 5
3 00- TAGATAY 133 M Camacho 9-0 L Charnock 1
4 CALL ME C Thornton 8-9 D McKeown 3
5 0 HEATHYARDS ROSE 68 R Hollinshead 8-9 F Lynch (5) 6
6 00- SHERMOOD 217 M Bell 8-9 M Fenton 4
7 00-0 WELCOME LU 14 P Felgate 8-9 P McCabe (3) 2

7-4 Shermood, 3-1 Cherry Garden, 7-2 Mels Baby, 8-1 Call Me, 10-1 others.

2.50 GALAHAD MAIDEN CLAIMING STAKES (£2,381: 6f) (9)

1 46 INFIRAAJ 33 (B) Mrs D Haine 4-9-5 A McGlone 2
2 5- MELODY WHEEL 260 A Hide 4-9-4 J Quinn 1
3 23-0 BACKHANDER 38 M Wane 4-9-3 J Edmunds (7) 7
4 /00- JOLLY HOKEY 182 J Wharton 4-9-3 K Fallon 8
5 6-65 BOOST 61 (B) Mrs N Macauley 4-9-1 C Teague (5) 9
6 00- BOWLERS BOY 150 J Quinn 3-9-1 M Birch 4
7 0040 CHLOELLA 14 C Booth 4-8-8 N Kennedy 5
8 5-66 LITHE SPIRIT 17 (B) J A Harris 4-8-8 S D Williams 6
9 036- AMOEBA 140 J Berry 3-8-2 P Fessey (5) 3

2-1 Amoeba, 4-1 Melody Wheel, Infiraaj, 8-1 Boost, Bowlers Boy, 10-1 others

3.20 LANCELOT LIMITED STAKES (£2,381: 7f) (11)

1 3041 ELTON LEDGER 14 (B,C,F,G) Mrs N Macauley 7-9-9 J Tate 7
2 000- BATTLE COLOURS 165 (C,D,F,G) E Incisa 7-9-7 Kim Tinkler 9
3 0/4 DESERT LORE 31 (G) Mrs J Ramsden 5-9-7 K Fallon 11
4 0-00 PEACEFULL REPLY 70 (F) F Lee 6-9-7 A McGlone 1
5 060- RING THE CHIEF 123 M Usher 4-9-7 M Wigham 3
6 046- THWAAB 133 F Watson 4-9-7 M Fenton 10
7 0446 CABCHARGE BLUE 17 (C,F,G,S) T Naughton 4-9-6 J Weaver 2
8 -551 IRCHESTER LASS 83 (B,C,F,G) S Bowring 4-9-6 C Teague (5) 8
9 0456 LIFE IS PRECIOUS 26 (S) R Hollinshead 4-9-4 F Lynch (5) 6
10 3-60 TILLY OWL 17 (D,G) J A Harris 5-9-4 J O'Reilly 4
11 1100 SEEKING DESTINY 23 (C,G) M Chapman 3-8-11 C Munday (7) 5

3-1 Elton Ledger, 4-1 Irchester Lass, 5-1 Desert Lore, 8-1 Seeking Destiny, Cabcharge Blue, Tilly Owl, 10-1 Life Is Precious, 12-1 others.

3.50 PERCEVAL HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £2,906: 1m 3f) (5)

1 2433 DANCING CAVALIER 5 (CD,G) R Hollinshead 9-7 F Lynch (5) 2
2 4211 MISTER ASPECTO 30 (V,G) M Johnston 9-6 J Weaver 1
3 421- YOUNG BUTT 156 (G) J Ffitch-Heyes 8-11 M Henry (5) 5
4 32-3 ROSTAQ 16 D Murray Smith 8-8 K Fallon 3
5 00-1 SIEGE PERILOUS 7 (S) S Williams 8-7 (5ex) J Tate 4

7-4 Dancing Cavalier, 7-2 Mister Aspecto, 4-1 Siege Perilous, 5-1 others

4.20 HOLY GRAIL APPRENTICES SELLING STAKES (£2,095: 1m 4f) (8)

1 2520 ANISTOP 2 (C,G) J Eyre 4-9-4 P Doe (5) 7
2 5165 FORZAIR 6 (CD,G) S Bowring 4-9-4 J Edmunds (3) 6
3 064- EVER FRIENDS 165 R Harris 4-8-12 O Casey 1
4 4-00 JUST LUCKY 51 (C,G) Mrs P Sly 4-8-12 C Scudder (3) 4
5 006- LAAL 243 M Barraclough 4-8-12 G Faulkner 5
6 /42- BECKY BOO 249J D Burchell 6-8-8 K Sked (5) 2
7 660- MILLTOWN CLASSIC 198 J Parkes 4-8-7 R Mullen (5) 8
8 4-60 RIVAL QUEEN 11 M Hammond 4-8-7 D Hayden (10) 3

11-4 Forzair, 3-1 Anistop, 9-2 Ever Friends, 6-1 Rival Queen, 8-1 Becky Boo, 12-1 Just Lucky, 14-1 others.

4.50 EXCALIBUR HANDICAP (£2,381: 1m) (14)

1 2234 AWESOME VENTURE 5 (S) M Chapman 6-10-0 C Munday (7) 13
2 24-6 IRIE MON 17 (G) M Bielby 4-10-0 D R McCabe (3) 10
3 5/0- HORNPIPE 212 J Wharton 4-9-9 S D Williams 9
4 50-2 THALEROS 14 (C,F,G) G Moore 6-9-8 D McKeown 7
5 5-60 SHUTTLECOCK 48 (CD,G) Mrs N Macauley 5-9-5 C Teague (5) 8
6 500- ZACAROON 105 (G) J Ffitch-Heyes 5-9-4 S Sanders 11
7 5513 DAVID JAMES' GIRL 17 (CD,G) A Bailey 4-9-4 Iona Wands (7) 14
8 3050 PC'S CRUISER 34 (B,CD,G) J Eyre 4-9-0 R Lappin 2
9 400- NOBBY BARNES 147 (CD,F,G) E Incisa 7-8-13 Kim Tinkler 3
10 -303 MISS ZANZIBAR 49 (D,F) R Fahey 4-8-12 A Culhane 6
11 66-0 MOST WELCOME NEWS 38 (B) J Jenkins 4-8-8 J Fortune 1
12 0026 CHEERFUL GROOM 14 (F) S Bowring 5-8-6 N Kennedy 5
13 4-06 RABA 37 (CD,G) Mrs N Macauley 6-8-4 Amanda Sanders (5) 4
14 00-0 FRED'S DELIGHT 14 (V) Mrs V Aconley 5-7-10 N Carlisle 12

7-2 Thaleros, 5-1 David James' Girl, 6-1 Miss Zanzibar, 8-1 Awesome Venture, 10-1 Irie Mon, Pc's Cruiser, 12-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: M Johnston, 35 winners from 188 runners, 18.6%; M Camacho, 16 from 102, 15.7%; M Bell, 11 from 73, 15.1%; A Bailey, 11 from 75, 14.7%; S Bowring, 41 from 289, 14.2%; J Eyre, 18 from 130, 13.8%

JOCKEYS: J Weaver, 42 winners from 237 rides, 17.7%; F Lynch, 10 from 61, 16.4%; K Fallon, 21 from 134, 15.7%; C Teague, 19 from 138, 13.8%; J Tate, 13 from 102, 12.7%; D McKeown, 35 from 280, 12.5%

BLINKERS

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Exeter: 2.40 Daymar 3.40 My Sister Lucy. KELSO: 4.00 Dolly Prices, Level Edge. SOUTHWELL: 2.50 Infiraaj, Boost.

□ Nimble, trained by John Hills, was second to Magic Rama in the Premio Goldoni at Pisa yesterday

LEADERS OVER THE JUMPS

TRAINERS

	1st	2nd	3rd	Days since win	Level stakes
M Pipe	126	80	63	1	-39.69
Mrs M Reveley	68	43	31	[illegible]	-49.88
D Nicholson	67	68	42	[illegible]	-56.64
P Hobbs	64	38	33	[illegible]	-20.13
G Richards	61	33	18	[illegible]	+23.51

JOCKEYS

	1st	2nd	3rd	Losing sequence	Level stakes
A P McCoy	135	94	71	5	+75.33
D Bridgwater	99	70	56	8	-60.65
R Dunwoody	80	62	62	18	-68.44
P Niven	71	51	32	4	-41.91
A Maguire	61	54	55	2	-64.69

[illegible]

صفحات من الارشيف

Rough Quest delivers telling late challenge to give trainer fitting reward for resilience

National theatre provides stage for Casey's skills

By Julian Muscat

IT would have been worth paying more than a penny for the thoughts of Terry Casey as Rough Quest, the winner of the Martell Grand National at Aintree on Saturday, returned home to a rapturous reception yesterday in the heart of stockbroker country outside Dorking, in Surrey.

Just over two years ago Casey's life had ground to a shuddering halt. A career with horses was all he ever wanted but all it delivered was a financial predicament so precarious that his brother, a successful businessman, advised him to cut his losses and run.

Casey cut his losses but declined to run. The man with no family connections in racing relinquished his licence in February 1994 but the lure of the thoroughbred was to prove too strong. Two months later, among adverts for tipping lines and vacancies for stable lads in the trade press, Casey, 50, noticed an opening at Andrew Wates's 700-acre residence.

Thus was forged the alliance that plotted a magnificent victory as Rough Quest swept past Encore Un Peu to become the first successful Grand National favourite since Grittar obliged punters 14 years ago.

In the event, both Casey and Wates were starved of the winning feeling by a 15-minute stewards' inquiry into Rough Quest's wayward passage up the run-in. On a personal level, any intervention by the stewards would have amounted to a savage reversal for Casey. The fates have hardly been kind to the man from Donegal, on Ireland's north-west coast.

"I bought Malt House Stables in Lambourn in 1992 and things never worked out for me," Casey reflected yesterday. "The overheads were massive and I was losing so much money that I could not continue. Eventually I sold the yard for a big loss and had to quit. Many of my owners were in the building industry, which had a terrible time in the recession."

The setback hurt Casey's pride as much as his wallet. He played truant as a child to indulge a passion for riding that saw him register 46 winners as a jockey. But tragedy struck when Elizabeth, his bride of six months, died when she choked over lunch 21 years ago. "I left the room for ten minutes and when I came back she was already dead," he said amid the celebrations yesterday.

Casey's training career saw him flit from the Curragh to Towcester and Banbury before he bought his own stable in Lambourn four years ago. "Lambourn is a pretty tough place," he said. "I have many friends in the area but I won't be going there for my holidays. I'm not a great one for socialising with owners. I'm better in a situation where someone else worries about paying the bills."

That is the arrangement with Wates. Ironically, Casey's being installed at Wates's Henfold House Stables owes everything to the building trade. Wates is a director of the family's Wates Building Group, a Croydon-based conglomerate employing more than 1,500 people. He was better placed than most to understand Casey's predicament and recalled yesterday how he selected his man from a host of applicants.

"More than 100 people responded to my advert," Wates said. "Terry had the necessary expertise and experience of training good horses. He has a lovely manner but what really counted were the excellent references I got when I inquired about him. He has a very good reputation for looking after his horses."

Doubtless those words were spoken with Rough Quest in mind. The ten-year-old has been plagued by a constitution so fragile that he often appeared ungenuine in the heat of a close finish. The fault was diagnosed as a muscle enzyme disorder and Rough Quest's diet was subsequently loaded with carboyhdrates and vitamin E at the expense of the high-protein intake traditional to racehorses.

If that change helped make the horse, the part played by Mick Fitzgerald was equally important. Ice runs through the jockey's veins. So much so that Fitzgerald castigated himself yesterday for launching Rough Quest too soon — even though he waited until 200 yards from the winning post. "I wanted to challenge up the inside of Encore Un Peu but David Bridgwater closed the door on me," he said. "I had to switch to the outside, which is when the two horses came close together."

It was an act of pure theatre on Fitzgerald's part, although the jockey could so easily have listened to the closing stages from the inside of an ambulance. After his second in the Cheltenham Gold Cup, Casey initially announced Rough Quest a non-runner at Aintree, prompting Fitzgerald, 25, to accept the ride on Bavard Dieu.

Fortunately for the Irishman, Nick Gaselee, who trains Bavard Dieu, facilitated the switch when Rough Quest re-entered the equation. Last year's winning jockey, Jason Titley, deputised and suffered two fractured ribs when Bavard Dieu fell at the first fence. He is expected to be out of action for two weeks.

As Titley lay injured, Fitzgerald enjoyed the ride of a lifetime aboard Rough Quest. Then, as he absorbed the cheers on his return to the winner's enclosure came details of the stewards' inquiry. "Those 15 minutes felt like an eternity," he said yesterday. "When I watched the replay I thought David [Bridgwater] made such a meal of it that he should have won an Oscar. Luckily, the stewards didn't buy it."

The day ended on a sour note when Rust Never Sleeps was put down after fracturing a shoulder and Deep Bramble suffered a career-threatening injury. Party Politics, the winner four years ago and runner-up last year, fell at the third fence and may contest the Scottish equivalent before his retirement.

Ireland's formidable challenge again came up empty but this was a victory for the Emerald Isle in all but name. As Casey said on his return home yesterday: "I left the Adelphi Hotel in Liverpool before six o'clock this morning and there were Irishmen still celebrating in the bar."

Saturday's results, page 31

BIG RACE RESULT

Going: good

3.00 MARTELL GRAND NATIONAL CHASE (Handicap: grade III: £142,534: 4m 4f)

ROUGH QUEST b g Crash Course - Our Quest (A Wates) 10-10-7 M A Fitzgerald (7-1 fav; The Times Private Handicapper's top rating) 1.

Encore Un Peu ch g Nikos - Creme Caramel (V Nally) 9-10-0 D Bridgwater (14-1) 2.

Superior Finish br g Oats - Emancipated (P McGrane) 10-10-3 (1lb ow) R Dunwoody (9-1) 3.

Sir Peter Lely b g Teenoso - Picture (John Doyle Construction Ltd) 9-10-0 Mr C Bonner (33-1) 4.

ALSO RAN: 8 Son Of War (ur), Young Hustler (5th), 10 Life Of A Lord, Party Politics (f), 12 Deep Bramble (pu), Wylde Hide (ur), 14 Lusty Light, 20 Rust Never Sleeps (pu), 22 Bishops Hall (ur), Vicompt De Valmont, 28 Antonin, 33 Into The Red, Over The Deel, 40 Captain Dibble, Chatam (pu), 50 Bavard Dieu (ur), Over The Stream, 66 Riverside Boy, 100 Brackenfield (ur), Greenhill Raffles, Three Brownies (6th), 150 Far Senior (pu), 200 Sure Metal. 27 ran. NR: Plastic Spaceage. 1¼l, 16l, sh hd, ¾l, 4l. T Casey at Dorking. Tote: £10.50; £3.70, £3.20, £3.20, £9.50. DF: £79.30. Trio: £293.50. CSF: £93.67. Tricast: £840.64. After a stewards' inquiry, the result stood.

Gerald Hubbard, The Times Private Handicapper, selected Rough Quest and Encore Un Peu to finish first and second. Robert Wright, in his Racing Ahead column, recommended Rough Quest as an attractive ante-post wager at 33-1 when the weights were published.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: KIPPANOUR
(2.40 Exeter)

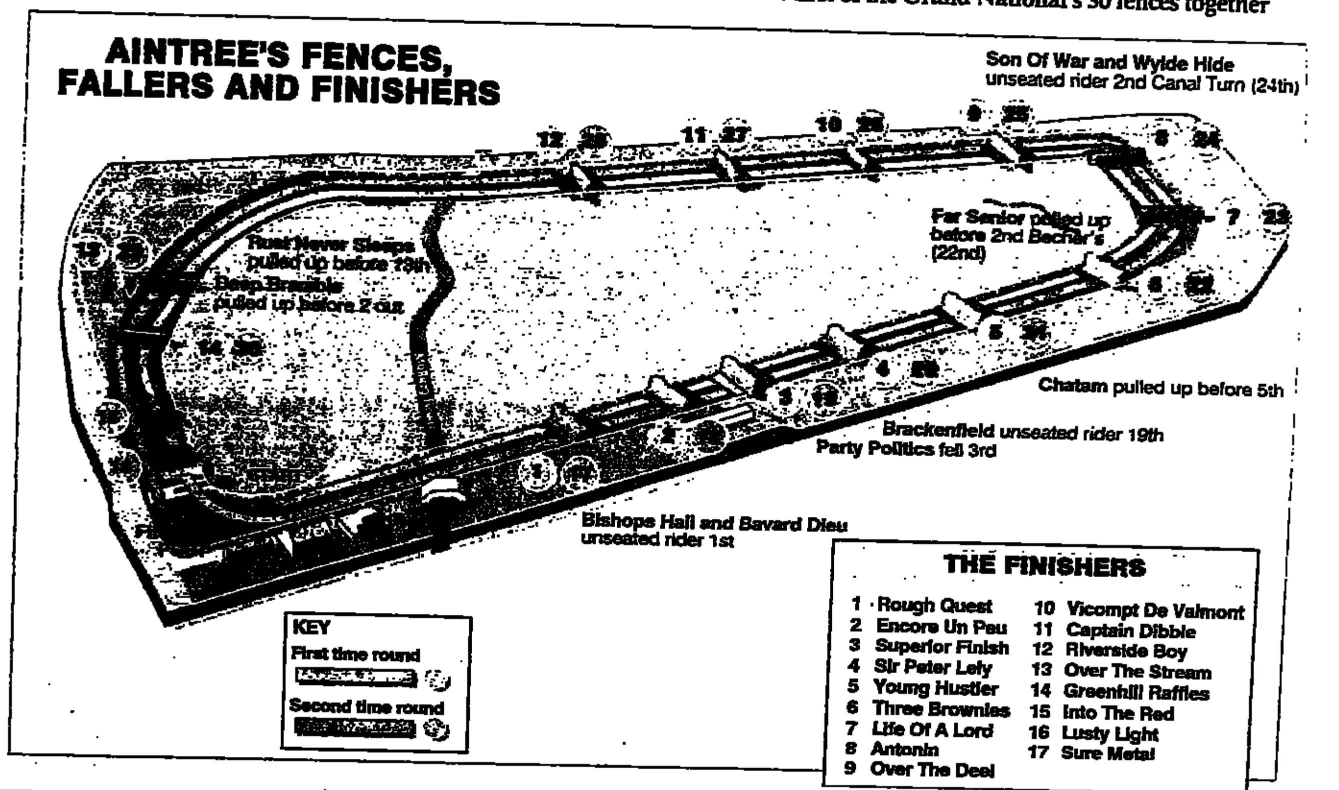
Next best: Super Tactics
(4.10 Exeter)

JULIAN HERBERT

Wates, left, and Casey celebrate Rough Quest's return home to Dorking yesterday

JOHN GILES

The winner, Rough Quest, centre, and second Encore Un Peu take the first of the Grand National's 30 fences together



AINTREE'S FENCES, FALLERS AND FINISHERS

Son Of War and Wylde Hide unseated rider 2nd Canal Turn (24th)
Far Senior pulled up before 2nd Becher's (22nd)
Rust Never Sleeps pulled up before 13th
Deep Bramble pulled up before 2 out
Chatam pulled up before 5th
Brackenfield unseated rider 19th
Party Politics fell 3rd
Bishops Hall and Bavard Dieu unseated rider 1st
KEY
First time round
Second time round

THE FINISHERS

1 Rough Quest
2 Encore Un Peu
3 Superior Finish
4 Sir Peter Lely
5 Young Hustler
6 Three Brownies
7 Life Of A Lord
8 Antonin
9 Over The Deel
10 Vicompt De Valmont
11 Captain Dibble
12 Riverside Boy
13 Over The Stream
14 Greenhill Raffles
15 Into The Red
16 Lusty Light
17 Sure Metal

EXETER

THUNDERER

2.10 Garolo
2.40 Kippanour
3.10 River Lossie
3.40 Minster's Madam
4.10 Pete The Parson
4.40 Il Bambino
5.10 Whirly

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0 .... B West (7) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing; F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

GOING: GOOD — TOTE JACKPOT MEETING — SIS

2.10 TORBAY AXMINSTER AMATEUR RIDERS NOVICES HURDLE
(Div I: £2,094: 2m 3f 110yd) (13 runners)

101	025-130	GAROLO 20 (S) (Lady Lloyd Webber) C Brooks 6-11-13	E James (7)	[illegible]
102	2-61600	PURBECK CAVALIER 10 (C,S) (B Curbs) Mrs J Retter 7-11-13	Miss P Curling (5)	75
103	0	BAYLINE STAR 30 (J McCarthy) Miss H Knight 6-11-7	J Culloty (5)	–
104	P030-P0	BEYOND THE STARS 10 (Mrs B Smith) G Smith 5-11-7	M Daly (7)	–
105	P-40603	CROHANE QUAY 16 (Mrs G Balding) G Balding 7-11-7	E Babington (7)	71
106	44	FELLOO 23 (Mrs J Edwards-Heathcote) T George 7-11-7	M Armytage	69
107	0-PP	FREELINE LUSTRE 38 (I Steuel) N Henderson 6-11-7	C Vigors (5)	–
108	545-02	IAN'S BID 26 (Birmingham Consortium) C Bread 6-11-7	A Wintle (7)	61
109	3	MILLCROFT RIVIERA 25 (J Carter) R Alner 5-11-7	P Henley (5)	55
110	2322	PALOSANTO 10 (B Kilpatrick) M Pipe 5-11-7	A Farrant (5)	86
111	00	TRUE CHIMES 30 (Mrs A Taylor) C Jones 5-11-7	R Lawther (7)	–
112	0-044	ZIP YOUR LIP 30 (Mrs P Townsley) Mrs P Townsley 6-11-7	Miss C Townsley (7)	60
113	205-U54	BOXFARI PRODUCER 77 (Tilstone Lodge Stud) J Edwards 6-11-2	B Potts (7)	73

BETTING: 11-4 Palosanto, 3-1 Garolo, 6-1 Purbeck Cavalier, 7-1 Crohane Quay, 8-1 Felloo, 10-1 Millcroft Riviera, 12-1 others.

1995: NO CORRESPONDING MEETING

FORM FOCUS

GAROLO about 35l 13th of 27 to Indefence in Grade I Supreme Novices Hurdle at Cheltenham (2m ½f, good to soft). PURBECK CAVALIER tailed off in 14-runner novice hurdle at Newbury won by Welcome Call (3m ½f, heavy). CROHANE QUAY 8l 3rd of 5 to Johnstons Buck in novices handicap hurdle at Lingfield (2m 7f, soft). IAN'S BID 11l 2nd to Charming Gui in 10-runner novice hurdle at Bangor (2m 1f, good to soft). MILLCROFT RIVIERA 23l 3rd of 18 to Faustino in maiden hurdle at Wincanton (2m, good to firm). PALOSANTO 4l 2nd of 20 to The Toiseach in maiden hurdle at Newbury (2m 5f, soft). ZIP YOUR LIP 9¼l 4th to Purple Splash in 16-runner novice hurdle at Warwick (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft).
Selection: GAROLO

EXETER RACELINE
0930 168+ COMMENTARY RESULTS
KELSO 101 201
EXETER 102 202
SOUTHWELL 103 203
FULL RESULTS SERVICE 168
368

EXETER SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: C Mann, 4 winners from 10 runners, 40.0%; Miss H Knight, 22 from 62, 35.5%; M Pipe, 89 from 279, 31.9%; N Henderson, 7 from 23, 30.4; A Dunn, 7 from 26, 26.9%; C James, 6 from 24, 25.0%.

JOCKEYS: J A McCarthy, 5 winners from 10 rides, 50.0%; D Bridgwater, 16 from 80, 20.0%; M A Fitzgerald, 19 from 117, 16.2%; A P McCoy, 7 from 47, 14.9%; N Mann, 5 from 37, 13.5%; T Dascombe, 3 from 27: 11.1%.

2.40 MOORLAND AXMINSTER JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE
(4-Y-O: £2,868: 2m 2f) (5 runners)

201	21P01	CHICODARI 70 (B,G,S) (Exors of Brig C Harvey) D Nicholson 11-10	R Johnson (3)	93
202	41613	TONYS GIFT 17 (BF,G,S) (Blue Chip Group) M Pipe 11-5	D Bridgwater	81
203	03212	DEYMIAR 20 (V,BF,S) (T Whitley) D Gandolfo 11-4	D Fortt (5)	[illegible]
204	1232	KIPPANOUR 12 (BF,G) (M Wall) C Mann 11-4	A P McCoy	97
205	P003	INDONESIAN 12 (B) (Uplands Bloodstock) C Brooks 10-12	G Bradley	73

BETTING: 7-4 Chicodari, 5-2 Deymiar, 7-2 Kippanour, 5-1 Tonys Gift, 14-1 Indonesian.

FORM FOCUS

CHICODARI beat Hamilton Silk 5l in 12-runner juvenile hurdle at Warwick (2m, good). TONYS GIFT 5¼l 3rd of 10 to Jentsogh in claiming hurdle at Folkestone (2m 1f 110yd, good to firm). DEYMIAR 3l 2nd of 11 to King Elmsearch in novice hurdle at Windsor (2m 6f 110yd, soft). KIPPANOUR 3l 2nd of 17 to Motazz in juvenile hurdle at Ludlow (2m, good) with INDONESIAN (1lb worse off) 11l 3rd. INDONESIAN beaten over 60l when 11th of 19 behind Darter in conditions hurdle at Windsor (2m, good to soft).
Selection: DEYMIAR (nap)

3.10 ROYAL DARTMOUTH AXMINSTER NOVICES CHASE
(£3,994: 2m 3f 110yd) (10 runners)

301	212140	NO PAIN NO GAIN 20 (G,S) (Marvellous Partners) J Gifford 8-12-0	P Hide	97
302	2/315U3	CASTLE COURT 23 (S) (Mrs D Thompson) N Gaselee 8-11-8	A Thornton	84
303	10/321F	RIVER LOSSIE 19 (B,G,S) (C Brasher) C Egerton 7-11-8	J A McCarthy	[illegible]
304	25P224	ABAVARD 19 (S) (D Henderson) R Frost 7-11-2	J Frost	77
305	4/420-P	JHAL FREZI 11 (Mrs B Heeley) A Barrow 8-11-2	S Burrough	–
306	UP	MY MAIN MAN 23 (F,G,S) (Mrs S M-Bennetts) Mrs S Messer-Bennetts 8-11-2	R Johnson	–
307	081445	SUPREME MUSIC 21 (B,F) (R Dennis) P Nicholls 7-11-2	A P McCoy	69
308	842422	DOM SAMOURAI 10 (B,S) (B Kilpatrick) M Pipe 5-11-0	D Bridgwater	98
309	0465P-	PEARL EPEE 387 (Mrs A Stokes) D Nicholson 7-10-11	G Hogan	–
310	321312	PERHAPS 8 (G,S) (H Wiston) Miss H Knight 5-10-9	Mr J Culloty	77

BETTING: 11-4 River Lossie, 3-1 Dom Samourai, 7-2 No Pain No Gain, 5-1 Castle Court, 6-1 Perhaps, 8-1 Pearl Epee, 20-1 Abavard, 33-1 others.

FORM FOCUS

NO PAIN NO GAIN 7½l 3rd of 6 to Senor El Betrutti in Scilly Isles Novices Chase at Sandown (2m 4f 110yd, good to firm) penultimate start; earlier beat DOM SAMOURAI (3lb better off) by 1¾l in novices chase at Nottingham (2m 5f, soft). CASTLE COURT 5¼l 3rd of 8 to Pete The Parson in novice chase at Chepstow (2m 3f 110yd, good to soft) with MY MAIN MAN (1lb worse off) pulled up 2 out. RIVER LOSSIE beat Punters Overhead 1¼l in 12-runner novice chase at Newbury (3m, good to soft) penultimate start. ABAVARD 2¾l 2nd of 8 to Merlins Dream in novice chase at Taunton (2m 3f, good) penultimate start. PERHAPS 22l 2nd of 3 to Callisoe Bay in novice chase at Sandown (2m, good to soft).
Selection: RIVER LOSSIE

3.40 AXMINSTER WEAVERS MARES ONLY SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE
(£1,902: 2m 2f) (15 runners)

401	08-3136	HABASHA 10 (G,S) (T Neill) M Pipe 6-12-0	D Bridgwater	92
402	302133	MINSTER'S MADAM 21 (V,S) (J Neville) J Neville 5-11-7	J Culloty (5)	[illegible]
403	0204-P0	PETITE BIJOU 32 (S) (Mrs C Newman) R Brotherton 5-10-11	M A Fitzgerald	80
404	6-66646	ALICE'S MIRROR 12 (D,G,S) (A Partnership) K Bishop 7-10-10	R Greene	94
405	1P/000	EASTER BABY 19 (S) (P Cundell) P Cundell 10-10-4	L Harvey	–
406	00/P50	JUNGLE HIGHWAY 12 (P Hiatt) P Hiatt 7-10-0	J A McCarthy	94
407	23F450	HULLO MARY DOLL 25 (Plough Jumpers) S Mellor 7-10-0	N Mann	98
408	6-00062	URBAN LILY 12 (B) (Mrs C Cole) R Hodges 6-10-0	T Dascombe (3)	87
409	000-0P	ENNISTYMON 11 (D Barry) J Mullins 5-10-0	S Curran (3)	–
410	0P6	FORTUNES ROSE 12 (Mrs A Garrett) J King 4-10-0	Chris Webb (5)	74
411	30000-	SKELTON PRINCESS 282F (L Wonnacott) Miss L Wonnacott 5-10-0	Mr R Thornton (7)	72
412	046/000	MY SISTER LUCY 88 (V,G) (Miss K Whitehouse) Miss K Whitehouse 6-10-0	S Wynne	–
413	600005	DEARDS SMASHER 31 (Mrs G List) N Smith 7-10-0	J Ryan	95
414	5/00-0P0	DANCING BAREFOOT 25 (J Heritage) M Bolton 7-10-0	M Griffiths (7)	–
415	000/PPP-	FRAGRANCE MOUNTAIN 355 (R Baker) R Baker 10-10-0	B Powell	–

Long handicap: Hullo Mary Doll 9-10, Urban Lily 9-10, Ennistymon 9-9, Fortunes Rose 9-8, Skelton Princess 9-6, My Sister Lucy 9-5, Deards Smasher 8-11, Dancing Barefoot 8-7, Fragrance Mountain 8-7.

BETTING: 9-4 Minster's Madam, 5-2 Alice's Mirror, 7-2 Urban Lily, 4-1 Habasha, 8-1 Hullo Mary Doll, 25-1 Dancing Barefoot, 33-1 others.

FORM FOCUS

HABASHA 5l 3rd of 19 to No Light in handicap hurdle at Nottingham (2m, good to soft) penultimate start. MINSTER'S MADAM 7l 3rd of 8 to Ivy Edith in handicap hurdle at Plumpton (2m 1f, good to soft). ALICE'S MIRROR 13¾l 6th of 14 to Selatan in handicap hurdle at Towcester (2m 5f, good to soft). URBAN LILY 4l 2nd of 17 to Allahrakha in selling novice hurdle over course and distance (good) with FORTUNES ROSE (8lb worse off) 23¼l 6th. HULLO MARY DOLL 16½l 5th of 12 to Esprit de Femme in handicap hurdle at Plumpton (2m 4f, soft) with ALICE'S MIRROR (2lb worse off) 13l 6th. DEARDS SMASHER 51l last of 5 finishers behind Around The Gale in novice hurdle at Newton Abbot (2m 1f, heavy)
Selection: HABASHA

4.10 ALL WOOL AXMINSTER HANDICAP CHASE (£3,916: 2m 2f) (6 runners)

501	3-32301	MEDINAS SWAN SONG 6 (G,S) (C Perry) R Hodges 8-12-1 (6ex)	A Tory	[illegible]
502	311P2F-	SAFFAAH 339 (G,S) (Broadmeadow Racing) S Knight 9-12-0	S Burrough	87
503	333114	MISTER ODDY 18 (G,S) (Mrs R Hill) J King 10-11-13	Mr J Culloty (5)	96
504	4-4005P	CABOCHON 19 (G,S) (J Joseph) R Frost 9-11-4	J Frost	95
505	03U121	PETE THE PARSON 23 (S) (W Sturt) J Old 7-11-2	M A Fitzgerald	92
506	324132	SUPER TACTICS 12 (G,S) (H Perry) R Alner 8-11-2	Mr P Henley (5)	96

BETTING: 5-2 Mister Oddy, 3-1 Super Tactics, Medinas Swan Song, 4-1 Pete The Parson, 8-1 Saffaah, 25-1 Cabochon.

FORM FOCUS

MEDINAS SWAN SONG beat Society Guest 6l in 5-runner handicap chase at Sandown (2m, good to soft). SAFFAAH 11l 2nd of 7 to Pontynyswen in handicap chase at Newton Abbot (2m 110yd, good to soft) penultimate start last season. MISTER ODDY beat Dear Do 6l in 7-runner handicap chase at Newbury (2m 1f, good to soft) on penultimate start. CABOCHON 23l 5th of 11 to Frogmarch in claiming hurdle at Sandown (2m 110yd, soft) penultimate start. PETE THE PARSON beat Dark Stranger 5l in 8-runner novice chase at Chepstow (2m 3f 110yd, good to soft).
SUPER TACTICS 4l 2nd of 5 to Gales Cavalier in handicap chase at over course and distance (good to soft).
Selection: MISTER ODDY

4.40 ROYAL SEATON AXMINSTER HANDICAP HURDLE
(£3,350: 2m 3f 110yd) (15 runners)

601	0/4/10-0	NAIYSARI 12 (S) (P Rich) P Rich 8-11-10	Mr M Daly (7)	85
602	5-33U4F	GREEN ISLAND 149 (CD,F,G,S) (J Moloney) A Dunn 10-11-6	J Frost	84
603	0-F0P3F	SMUGGLER'S POINT 19 (F) (M Hickey) R O'Sullivan 6-11-5	D O'Sullivan	97
604	112338	NORDIC VALLEY 81 (C,D,F,G,S) (Pond House Racing) M Pipe 5-11-3	D Bridgwater	98
605	212553	TIME FOR A FLUTTER 19 (G,S) (Miss N Carroll) C James 7-11-3	Mr E James	98
606	222243-	BEAM ME UP SCOTTY 328 (C,G) (Mrs A Hawke) N Hawke 7-11-1	R Greene	87
607	446164	DRESS DANCE 24 (S) (Mrs J Powell) N Mitchell 6-10-10	Sophie Mitchell (5)	92
608	606312	IL BAMBINO 11 (BF,G,S) (H Manners) H Manners 8-10-9	A Dowling (7)	94
609	43/601	NORDIC MINE 21 (D,G) (N Savery) P Hobbs 6-10-7	G Tormey (3)	96
610	610841	DARING KING 13 (F,S) (Cleeve Stables) M Bolton 6-10-6	P Hide	96
611	811823	ANLACE 19 (BF,F,G) (Felix Bowness Partners) S Mellor 7-10-6	N Mann	86
612	U3-P4P5	PLAYING TRUANT 28 (G) (D Moon) D Gandolfo 8-10-4	A P McCoy	87
613	121/300-	MOYMET 528 (F) (E Mangan) J King 10-10-3	T Dascombe (3)	[illegible]
614	34-0534	HYDEMILLA 16 (Mrs T Pilkington) Mrs T Pilkington 6-10-2	G Hogan (3)	83
615	F3/0F06	SHEEP STEALER 23 (G) (Datum Building Supplies) R Peacock 8-10-0	Chris Webb (5)	–

Long handicap: Sheep Stealer 8-2.

BETTING: 5-1 Beam Me Up Scotty, 11-2 Nordic Valley, 6-1 Nordic Mine, Smuggler's Point, 7-1 Daring King, 8-1 Anlace, Dress Dance, 10-1 others.

FORM FOCUS

NORDIC VALLEY 1¾l and head 3rd of 10 to Fleur De Tal in claiming hurdle here (2m 2f, good) on penultimate start. TIME FOR A FLUTTER 16l 3rd of 8 to Marine Society in handicap hurdle at Newton Abbot (2m 6f, soft) with SMUGGLER'S POINT (4lb worse off) fell 2 out.
DRESS DANCE 8l 4th of 12 to Amaze in novice handicap hurdle at Sandown (2m 110yd, good to soft). IL BAMBINO beat Its Grand 3l in 16-runner selling handicap hurdle at Huntingdon (2m 5f 110yd, good) on penultimate start. NORDIC MINE beat Conwy 9l in 11-runner handicap hurdle at Taunton (2m 3f 110yd, good). DARING KING beat Fresh Choice 5l in 10-runner handicap hurdle at Fontwell (2m 6f, good to firm).
Selection: NORDIC VALLEY

5.10 TORBAY AXMINSTER AMATEUR RIDERS NOVICES HURDLE
(Div II: £2,080: 2m 3f 110yd) (13 runners)

1	14P4	BLESSED OLIVER 132 (F) (Mrs D Plunkett) N Twiston-Davies 6-11-13	Miss A Plunkett (7)	79
2	422-104	OBAN 16 (S) (Lord Hartington) Miss H Knight 6-11-13	J Culloty (5)	90
3	0-55065	AMBER SPARK 67 (D Gandolfo) D Gandolfo 7-11-7	Miss P Jones (5)	–
4	6R05P5-	ARCTICFLOW 308P (B) (N Thomson) N Thomson 11-11-7	S Davis (7)	–
5	5-	BASIC PRINCIPLE 368 (Bloodstock And Stud Inv) K Bailey 7-11-7	M Armytage	–
6		BOWDEN SURPRISE (R Baker) R Baker 6-11-7	A Holdsworth (7)	–
7	0U060/	NOTED STRAIN 672 (D Bassett) D Bassett 8-11-7	Miss K Di Marte (7)	–
8	UB3-50F	SIGMA RUN 103 (G) (B S Racing) J Edwards 7-11-7	B Potts (7)	93
9	00P	SIZZONNIE 12 (J Wallis) J Bradley 6-11-7	D Price (7)	–
10	342	WHIRLY 42 (Pall-mall Partners) R Alner 7-11-7	C Bonner (3)	[illegible]
11	0P	CLAUDIA'S WAY 19 (R Mills) Mrs J Mills 5-11-2	R Mills (7)	–
12	P	NOT A PENNY 49 (T Eager) C Jones 10-11-2	Miss B Small (7)	–
13	05U2P/6-	SEMINOLE PRINCESS 510 (B Hensley) C Hensley 8-11-2	Miss A Dudley (7)	–

BETTING: 5-2 Oban, 3-1 Whirly, 4-1 Sigma Run, 5-1 Amber Spark, 6-1 Basic Principle, 16-1 Blessed Oliver, 20-1 others

FORM FOCUS

OBAN best effort this term beat Glitter Isle 1¼l in 15-runner novice hurdle at Towcester (2m, soft). AMBER SPARK about 5l 5th of 11 to Zoe Baird in claiming hurdle at Tramore (2m, good to soft). SIGMA RUN best effort this term 42l 5th of 6 to Wisley Wonder in novice hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 5f, good to firm). WHIRLY 14l 2nd to Foxtrot Romeo in 9-runner novice hurdle at Fontwell (2m 6f, good to soft).
Selection: WHIRLY

POINT-TO-POINT RESULTS

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY UNITED HUNTS (Cottenham): Hunt: 1, Bright Burns (R Sweeting, 1-3 fav); 2, Highland Laird; 3, Glenevey. 6 ran. Inter: 1, Beau Dandy (T Marks, 4-1); 2, Druid's Lodge; 3, Saffron Flame. 13 ran. Open: 1, Cockstown Lad (D Featherstone, 14-1); 2, River Melody; 3, Carrigeen Lad. 11 ran. Ladies: 1, Richard Hunt (Miss L Rowe, 2-7 fav); 2, Dromin Leader; 3, Cherry Chap. 6 ran. Rest: 1, Russian Vision (C Ward-Thomas, 20-1); 2, Shake Five; 3, Dashboard Light. 15 ran. Open Mdn I: 1, Just A Madam (Miss E Tomlinson, 3-1); 2, Mr Wendyl; 3, Springlark. 11 ran. Open Mdn II: 1, Keary My Home (T Marks, 3-1); 2, Alapa; 3, George The Greek. 12 ran. Open Mdn III: 1, Hurricane Gilbert (C Ward-Thomas, 3-1 fav); 2, Dolly Bloom; 3, Royal Bav. 9 ran.

HARKAWAY CLUB (Chaddesley Corbett): Hunt: 1, Jolly Boat (A Crow, 4-1 jt-fav); 2, Cawkwell Dean; 3, Nether Gobions. 17 ran. Rest: 1, Perseverance (Miss P Gundry, 8-1); 2, Upton Orbit; 3, Ollerdale. 14 ran. Ladies: 1, Russki (Miss A Dare, 8-1); 2, Knight's Spur; 3, Mister Gebo. 9 ran. Open: 1, Lochingall (T Stephenson, Evens fav); 2, Garrylucas; 3, Penlet. 6 ran. Confined: 1, Korbell (A Crow, 6-4 fav); 2, Docter Mac; 3, Carbery Arctic. 10 ran. Mdn I: 1, Forest Fountain (A Dalton, 6-1); 2, Most Rich; 3, Bucks Flea. 17 ran. Mdn II: 1, Meggies Fellow (G Barfoot-Saunt, 12-1); 2, Hehas; 3, Kilrose Lad. 15 ran.

Handsome Harvey recorded his fourteenth successive victory at the Monmouthshire meeting on Saturday (Carl Evans writes).

MONMOUTHSHIRE (Llanvapley): Hunt: 1, Hatterill Ridge (C Richards, 7-1); 2, Major Bert. Only 2 finished. 4 ran. Confined: 1, Miners Fortune (B Potts, 5-1); 2, Push Along; 3, Pat Cullen. 15 ran. Open: 1, Better Future (B Potts, 6-4 fav); 2, Listery Lad. Only 2 finished. 6 ran. Ladies: 1, Handsome Harvey (Miss P Jones, 4-7 fav); 2, Mendip Music; 3, Out The Door. 6 ran. Rest I: 1, Polly Pringle (A Price, 7-4 fav); 2, Boddington Hill; 3, Bay Leader. 9 ran. Rest II: 1, Just Marmalade (J Tudor, 5-2 fav); 2, Horn Player; 3, Icecapade. 13 ran. Mdn I: 1, Telephone (P Hamer, 7-2); 2, Spikeie Rose; 3, Mister Jay Doy. 13 ran. Mdn (Div II): 1, Twilight Tom (A Price, 9-4); 2, Bel Lane; 3, Hennerwood Oak. 11 ran.

MORPETH (Tranwell): Hunt: 1, May Run (Mrs V Jackson, 11-10 fav); 2, Park Slave; 3, Newbrano. 5 ran. Confined: 1, Fern Leader (N Wilson, 4-5 fav); 2, Free Transfer; 3, Master Mischief. 8 ran. Ladies: 1, Ready Steady (Miss P Robson, 2-9 fav); 2, Mendys Special. Only 2 finished. 4 ran. Open: 1, Equinoctial (N Wilson, 7-2); 2, Fast Study; 3, The Mosses. 8 ran. PPORA: 1, Wigtown Bay (Miss N Stirling); 1, Stilltodo (N Wilson); 3, Gay Vixen VI. 3 ran. Rest: 1, Todcrag (T Scott, 4-5 fav); 2, Royal Surprise; 3, Miss Cullane. 7 ran. Open Mdn I: 1, Roly Prior (A Parker, 4-5 fav); 2, King Fly; 3, Warkswoodman. 16 ran. Open Mdn II: 1, Ensign Ewart (C Storey, 7-2); 2, Snapper; 3, Kings Token. 9 ran.

TEDWORTH (Barbury Castle): Hunt: 1, Touch Of Winter (T Lacey, 4-6 fav); 2, Arnold's Choice; 3, Madiyan. 7 ran. Monterey Rest: 1, Bet With Baker (Miss P Curling, 9-4 fav); 2, Plan-A; 3, Hizal. 18 ran. Ladies: 1, Interpretation (Miss R Francis, 14-1); 2, Flame O'Frensi; 3, Sohail. 10 ran. Open: 1, Royle Speedmaster (A Harvey, 33-1); 2, Tinest Lad; 3, Indian Knight. 15 ran. Confined: 1, Up And Coming (Miss M Bentham, 25-1); 2, Desert Waltz; 3, Kites Hardwicke. 6 ran. Open Mdn I: 1, Bitofamixup (P Hacking, 4-6 fav); 2, Favient; 3, Is She Quick. 8 ran. Open Mdn II: 1, Ravensdale Lad (R Wakeham, 4-1); 2, Vulgan Prince; 3, Lochinvar Lord. 10 ran. Open Mdn III: 1, Plumbridge (C Vigors, 4-5 fav); 2, Woodland Cutting; 3, Juniper Lodge. 10 ran.

WESTERN (Wadebridge): Hunt: 1, Dark Reflection (D Curnow, 1-2 fav); 2, Zany Girl; 3, Pen-Alisa. 3 ran. Confined: 1, Prince Soloman (W G Turner, 6-4); 2, Catch The Cross; 3, Roses In May. 8 ran. Ladies: 1, Duchess Of Tubber (Miss S Young, 4-1); 2, Seventh Lock; 3, Greenwine. 6 ran. Open: 1, Departure (J Creighton, 3-1); 2, Magnolia Man; 3, Bootscraper. 9 ran. Open Mdn I: 1, Mosside (N Harris, 5-2); 2, Dovedon Princess; 3, Temporary. 11 ran. Open Mdn II: 1, Big Seamus (J Creighton, 4-5 fav); 2, Big Reward; 3, Glenisla. 7 ran. Rest: 1, Baldhu Chance (J Young, 10-1); 2, Mountain Master; 3, Sunwind. 9 ran. Inter: 1, Rathmichael (A Farrant, 13-8); 2, Cautious Rebel; 3, Brother Bill. 3 ran.

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Catt moves to position of strength

Bristol	5
Bath	43

By Bryan Stiles

IF there were any lingering doubts that Mike Catt should play at stand-off half as Bath strive to secure the league and cup double, his splendid display against Bristol on Saturday should have eradicated them.

Yet, Bath still play the guessing game. In the time-honoured fashion of professional football-speak, they claim that they will take each game as it comes and pick the team to suit the occasion, and that might mean playing him in his England position of full back.

Earlier in the season, Bath agreed to use him at full back to help to further his cause with England, but, with the international season over and a rib injury sidelining Richard Butland, their regular stand-off, Bath have been using Catt in the No 10 position.

Catt: bemused Bristol

He showed that he has grown in the job. His speed of foot, thought and deed bemused the Bristol defence and he played a significant part in almost all of Bath's seven tries, his best work being reserved for Guscott's second try when Catt darted to his left just inside the Bristol half, causing the defence to move with him. He realised that they had left a small gap between backs and forwards, so he swerved back, danced around two defenders, accelerated into the 22 and gave Guscott the sweetest of passes to send him over the line.

Catt would not be drawn on which position he should be used in. "I don't mind where I play when we play like we did today," he said. "It was good fun. We should have had 50 points."

The reason that the half-century mark was not breached was because Jonathan Callard, Bath's place-kicking maestro, had an unusual day, missing with six of his ten attempts. Bristol must have been grateful: it was, in any case, the biggest margin of defeat that they have endured in the Courage Clubs Championship.

At least Bristol are £250,000 better off after the presentation, on Saturday, of a cheque from the Sports Grounds Initiative, towards the cost of building the new West Stand at the Memorial Ground. They would probably be willing to swap pounds for points as they struggle near the foot of the first division table.

Bath are still leading the division and this resounding victory illustrates their determination to recapture the title and retain the Pilkington Cup (they meet Leicester in the final on May 4). Although much of their play was of an extremely high order, the players told Bryan Ashton, the coach, that they are capable of playing even better before the end of the season.

Bath dominated the lineouts and the scrums and, apart from one ten-minute patch in the first half, Bristol were on the receiving end. Bath were 19-0 ahead at half-time thanks to tries from de Glanville, Geoghegan and Guscott, the latter two scoring one more apiece to add to those from Lumsden and Hilton. Thomas was harried unmercifully by Robinson, but escaped to score a consolation try in the last minute.

SCORERS: **Bristol:** Try: Thomas. **Bath:** Tries: Geoghegan (2), de Glanville, Guscott (2), Lumsden, Hilton. **Conversions:** Callard (4)

BRISTOL: P Hull, B Breeze, D Tiueu, F Maggs, J Naylor, A Thomas, K Bracken, A Sharp, A Lathrope, K Fullman, M Corry, P Adams, G Archer, I Dixon, C Barrow

BATH: J Callard, A Lumsden, P de Glanville, J Guscott, S Geoghegan, M Catt, A Nicol, D Hilton, G Dawe, J Mallett, A Robinson, M Haag, N Redman, S Ojomoh, B Clarke. A Webber temporary replacement for de Glanville (54-62min)

Referee: S Lander (Liverpool)

Possible new role for Richards in wake of Russ departure

MARC ASPLAND

Sparsely-populated stands at Central Park, Wigan, disappointed Orrell officials hoping to revive their fortunes with a change of venue

Wheeler dealing with insiders

Orrell	10
Leicester	38

By David Hands
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE faint taste of dissatisfaction lingered over the weekend: the manner and timing of Tony Russ's departure from Leicester, the disappointing response to Orrell's venture into rugby league territory for their game with the champions on Saturday and the match itself, a scrambling, erratic affair that served merely to sustain Leicester's challenge to Bath in the Courage Clubs Championship.

Perhaps, in this transitional season, such dissatisfaction will tinge almost every aspect of the game. The response of one club, Butleigh Amateurs, from Somerset, whose officials were vocal at the Rugby Football Union's special general meeting eight days ago, has been to propose a reversion to the past in the shape of a 20-a-side game that they intend to call Butleigh football.

If that sounds fanciful, it is no more so than the thought that, within a week of Leicester clinching a place in the Pilkington Cup final, their director of rugby would be dismissed. Russ, 50 on the day of his going, will not be seen at Welford Road again, having discovered that many of his functions have been subsumed in the appointment of Peter Wheeler as the club's chief executive.

This is either ruthless or brave, depending upon your view of rugby's new world order. Wheeler is not so foolish as to try to run a one-man show, which is contrary to the integrated administration for which his club is famous, yet Leicester, historically, have prospered under strong individuals and this may be the right time for another.

Wheeler admits to differences of opinion with Russ about the way forward and, rather than allowing the situation to fester, he has lanced the boil. The rest of the English game will stand amazed that so successful a coach as Russ has been forced out, but Wheeler hopes to have replaced him by the end of April, with a director of coaching rather than of rugby, whose brief will be to tend to the organisational needs of the club's strong team of amateur coaches.

That implies an individual from within the Leicester fold. Indeed, Wheeler has hinted that there may be a role for Dean Richards within the professional establishment, should the England No 8 choose not to resume his police career after his present sabbatical. "We have a lot of experience in-house at Leicester and we also have some senior players coming to the end of their careers," Wheeler said.

Full results and league tables . Page 31

Richards, missing from the win over Orrell because of a knee injury, handed over the captaincy to Rory Underwood, another of those seniors, who paid tribute to the "historic" nature of two rugby union clubs coming together at Central Park, the home of Wigan, the rugby league champions. Sadly, history passed many people by. Only 3,637 turned up, though more will surely be present on April 20, when Bath play Orrell there.

"I am disappointed; we had hoped for 6-7,000," Ron Pimblett, the Orrell chairman, said. On the other hand, they filled Wigan's nine hospitality boxes, of which they have only three at Edgehall Road, and the roots of a year-round rugby stadium in Wigan are strengthening.

"Unless we get help from outside, we will have to move because we can't generate enough cash from our crowds," Pimblett said. "I also believe that, in less than five years, there will be only one game of rugby anyway — not necessarily because either code wants it, but because television will require it, and both Wigan and ourselves are looking hard at the future."

Orrell's present is limited to remaining in the first division. Aspirations of playing in Europe have slipped away, as steadily as the drain of possession to Leicester's experienced forwards, who may have found Clive Cooper a stalwart opponent in the lineout but ruled the loose ball with a rod of iron.

That gave Niall Malone, their stand-off half, the chance to play probably his best all-round game in the senior side. The sadness was that Leicester's midfield could not build more from it; instead, it was left to the tireless John Liley to motor past 350 points for the season and put the indifferent work of others to shame.

SCORERS: **Orrell:** Try: Smith **Conversion:** Mason **Penalty goal:** Mason **Leicester:** Tries: Underwood (2), Wells, Liley **Conversions:** Liley (3) **Penalty goals:** Liley (4)

ORRELL: S Mason, R Mairas, L Turgamata, P Johnson, G Smith, P Hamer, G Povall, P Winstanley, A Moffatt, P Mitchell, A Bennett, S Bibby, C Cooper, J Huxley, P Anglesea

LEICESTER: J Liley; S Hackney, J Overend, R Robinson, R Underwood; N Malone, A Kardooni; G Rowntree, R Cockerill, D Garforth, J Wells, M Johnson, M Poole, W Drake-Lee, W Johnson. Cockerill replaced by J Aldwinkle (56min); P Freshwater temporary replacement for Drake-Lee (17-19)

Referee: A Spreadbury (Somerset)

Newport's errors set Neath on romp to the top

Neath	65
Newport	23

Gerald Davies

NEATH moved a point ahead of Pontypridd and two clear of Cardiff, who have a match in hand, at the top of the Heineken League on Saturday, by virtue of scoring eight tries and gaining maximum bonus points against Newport at The Gnoll.

They did so in a game of quirky eccentricities, not the least being that Neath should eventually harvest such an abundance of points when, in the closing stages of the first half, they found themselves in arrears not by the odd point or two, but by a margin of 20-3.

Newport had not exactly cut a dash. True, their defence was unbending, and Gareth Rees shunted the ball vast distances so that they could keep Neath at bay when they had threatened most, but they had hardly been convincing elsewhere.

One moment, the teams were exchanging penalty goals. Tellingly, Rees had to kick both his from on or near the halfway line, with Horgan, for Neath, kicking his one from some 25 metres. Then, things changed dramatically and put the score absurdly out of kilter with events. Martin Llewellyn launched a counter-attack on the left from Richard Jones's miskick, and a fine try resulted for Richard Rees on the right. Then, when a Neath attack broke down in the Newport half, Llewellyn was instrumental in creating the space for Simon Davies's try. Gareth Rees converted both.

Neath's ambitions were dissolving in the warm spring sun. When Gareth Llewellyn crossed the line and scored what appeared to be a perfectly good try, he was recalled by a eagle-eyed touch judge for a previous infringement.

When, later, the same touch judge, not quite so eagle-eyed, failed to notice that a 60-metre line kick had bounced half a yard in the field of play, and signalled for a lineout at the point where the ball was kicked, the Neath crowd must have felt that the team had more than just Newport to contend with.

Orkney's hopes of being allowed to take part in the play-offs for promotion to the seventh division of the national league in Scotland received a boost yesterday. After protests, the Scottish Rugby Union has agreed to again canvass opinions of clubs from the two lowest divisions and, if necessary, hold a meeting at Murrayfield for all concerned. Orkney had been told last week that they would not be able to compete because of the difficulties and cost of travelling.

They might also have felt that, with the referee being from their neck of the woods, they might not get any favours from his direction, either; any transgression or reasonable doubt, like a tussle for the ball on the ground, seemed to go in Newport's favour in the early stages.

Before such doubts took permanent root, John Davies crashed over for a vital try in the second minute of stoppage time, and Neath began applying pressure. Horgan kicked a penalty goal, a mighty shove at the scrum secured a penalty try, and the teams were level.

Having given Neath a run for their money in the first half, Newport now handed the prize to Neath on a plate. In a period of 11 minutes, four stray passes by Newport landed helpfully in Neath's hands, and tries resulted.

Although Gareth Rees had restored the lead briefly with another long-distance penalty goal, two of his subsequent passes resulted in tries for Neath. Passes by Simon Davies and Adam Palfrey led to two more. Richard Jones and Geraint Evans were the beneficiaries with two tries each.

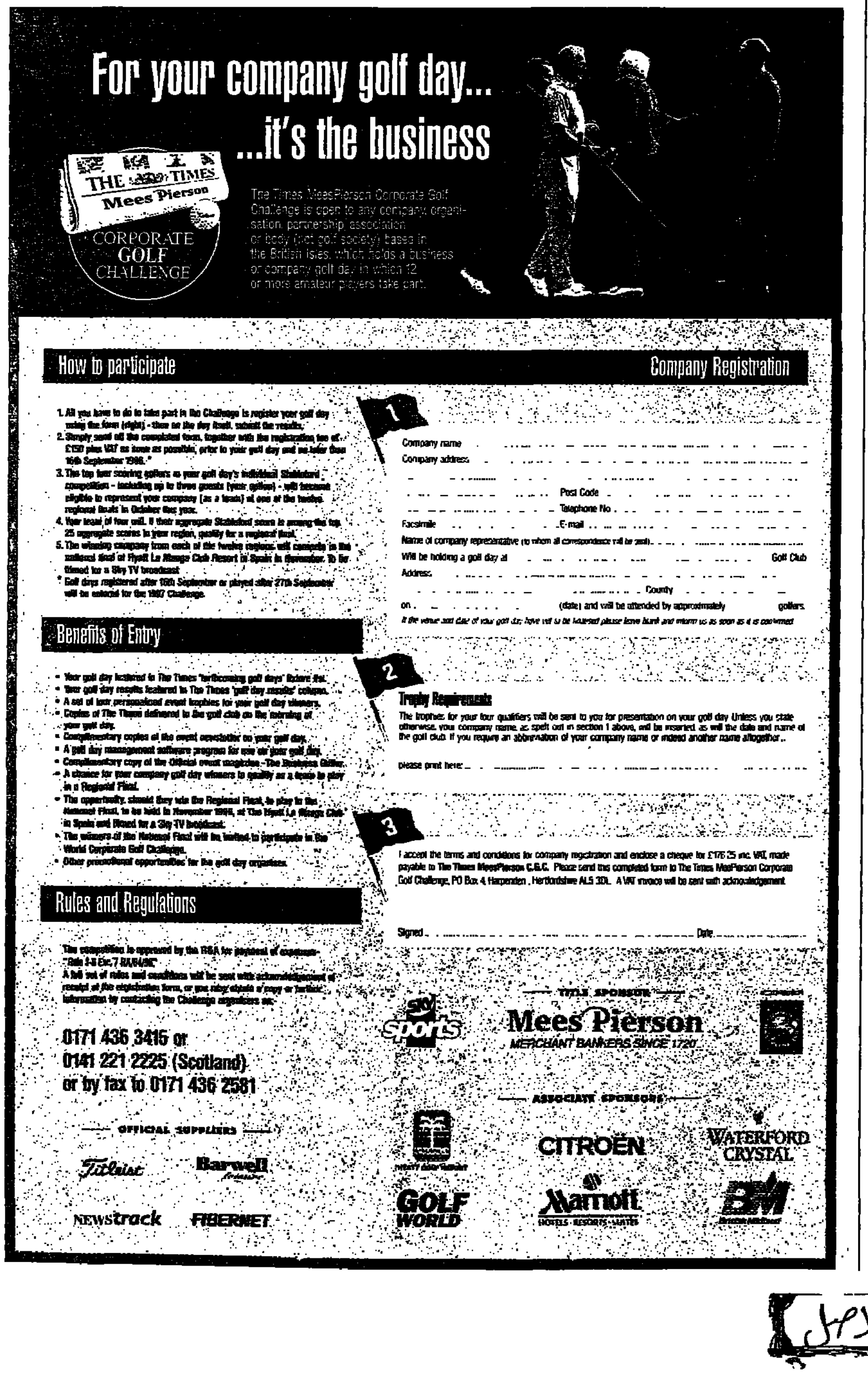
The frequency of these raised a smile. When had a game ever been won by four interceptions? Steve Williams and Horgan were the other scorers, with Horgan, who kicked all eight conversions, collecting 30 points in all.

SCORERS: **Neath:** Tries: Richard Jones (2), Evans (2), J Davies, S Williams, Horgan, penalty try **Conversions:** Horgan (8). **Penalty goals:** Horgan (3). **Newport:** Tries: R Rees, Davies. **Conversions:** G Rees (2) **Penalty goals:** G Rees (3).

NEATH: Richard Jones, C Higgs, G Evans, J Funnell, R Wintle, P Williams, P Horgan; D Morris, B Williams, J Davies, I Boobyer, Glyn Llewellyn, Gareth Llewellyn, Robin Jones, S Williams. Wintle replaced by G Davies (59min); Morris replaced by M Morgan (79)

NEWPORT: S Davies; R Rees, A Palfrey, M Llewellyn, C Arnold, G Rees, J Hewlett, S Duggan, I Jones, R Snow, D Gray, N Jones, K Moseley, M Voyle, R Goodey. Moseley replaced by M Workman (26)

Referee: C Thomas (Neath).



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Rules and Regulations

The competition is approved by the R&A for payment of expenses - "Rule 1-8 Ex.7 RA/84/96".
A full set of rules and conditions will be sent with acknowledgement of receipt of the registration form, or you may obtain a copy or further information by contacting the Challenge organisers on:

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Company Registration

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Company name
Company address
Post Code
Telephone No
Facsimile
E-mail
Name of company representative (to whom all correspondence will be sent)
Will be holding a golf day at Golf Club
Address
County
on (date) and will be attended by approximately golfers
If the venue and date of your golf day have yet to be finalised please leave blank and inform us as soon as it is confirmed

2
Trophy Requirements
The trophies for your four qualifiers will be sent to you for presentation on your golf day. Unless you state otherwise, your company name, as spelt out in section 1 above, will be inserted as will the date and name of the golf club. If you require an abbreviation of your company name or indeed another name altogether..
please print here:

3
I accept the terms and conditions for company registration and enclose a cheque for £176.25 inc. VAT, made payable to The Times MeesPierson C.G.C. Please send this completed form to The Times MeesPierson Corporate Golf Challenge, PO Box 4, Harpenden, Hertfordshire AL5 3DL. A VAT invoice will be sent with acknowledgement
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Sale return confirms value of Harlequins' new stock

Harlequins	55
Sale	0

By Nicolas Andrews

HARLEQUINS have traditionally had an attitude problem. They have rightly been accused of a lack of application, of an arrogant refusal to knuckle down to the hard graft of league rugby. Capable of matching the best on their day, those days have simply been too few and far between.

Last season, however, was a sobering one for the club with a taste for champagne rugby. They would now be playing in the second division had they not won their final game, and few would have mourned their relegation.

The first signs that something had changed came at the start of this season. Harlequins came flying off the blocks, winning their first five games. Then, they travelled to Sale and lost. "We weren't really focused," Dick Best, the director of rugby, said of that defeat. "In typical Harlequin fashion, we thought all we had to do was turn up." Defeat at home to Bath followed, and it looked like the same old story.

That the season has unfolded in an altogether more satisfactory fashion is testament to the hard work of Best, Keith Richardson, the coach, and the players. There is a new commitment about the club. A record-breaking triumph at West Hartlepool last week was followed not by the smug self-satisfaction of old but by hard work in midweek.

Rob Andrew's season at Newcastle has ended early; he dislocated a shoulder during their 36-13 second division victory away to Waterloo. "I will be seeing a specialist tomorrow [Monday]," Andrew said. "This is easily the worst injury of my career."

"We're training very hard," Jim Staples, the Harlequins full back, said. "The sessions on Tuesday and Thursday are of a very high quality. It's no surprise that it's spilling over into our games."

Sale would not have beaten anyone on Saturday. More than 250 points were scored in five Courage Clubs Championship first division games, and only Sale contributed nothing. With Paul Turner, their inspirational coach and stand-off half, injured, their season has gone into sharp decline.

Harlequins have no such problems. Sheasby was in Hong Kong without Best's blessing, but Watson, back in his preferred No 8 position, more than compensated with two tries. Bromley claimed three, Staples two more, and O'Leary went over in the corner to complete a move that started when Saverimutto and Vyvyan collided and left the field dazed and confused. It was that sort of day for Sale.

SCORERS: **Harlequins:** Tries: Bromley (3), Staples (2), Watson (2), O'Leary. **Conversions:** Challinor (3) **Dropped goals:** Staples, Challinor **Penalty goal:** Challinor.

HARLEQUINS: J Staples, D O'Leary, W Greenwood, P Mensah, S Bromley; P Challinor, N Walshe, J Leonard, S Mitchell, A Mullins, G Allison, A Snow, P Thresher, R Jenkins, M Watson. Walshe replaced by C Wright (72min)

SALE: J Mallinder; D Rees, J Baxendell, G Higginbotham, C Yates, R Liley, C Saverimutto; P Smith, S Diamond, A Yates, D Erskine, J Fowler, D Baldwin, N Ashurst, C Vyvyan. Saverimutto replaced by M Warr (27); Vyvyan replaced by D O'Grady (27). L Hewson temporary replacement for Higginbotham (63-67)

Referee: G Gadjovich (Canada)

Irish elevated by Humphreys

Wakefield	19
London Irish	31

By Peter Bills

THE English first division is going to be a good place to be next season. The English Professional Clubs will this week formally confirm their wish to see relegation from the division abandoned for the year.

Given the unanimous decision of the clubs, the Rugby Football Union (RFU) is likely to concur. Hence, Saracens, with Sella and Lynagh, Northampton, with their multitude of international performers, and now almost certainly a vibrant London Irish club will join the other leading sides in England.

This victory for Irish was the one that they had earmarked as essential. They regarded it as the last serious hurdle to promotion against a side that had all but beaten Bath last month. When news filtered through that London Scottish, their only serious rivals for the second promotion place, had lost at home to Bedford, Irish eyes fairly sparkled.

Irish should be a credit to the first division. They have a refreshing approach, their officials are among the most popular on the circuit and their rugby has been impressive. In the first half on Saturday, they scored three fine tries in 23 minutes play that settled the match.

The first was by Bird from O'Shea's fine break, the third by Briers, who supported Walsh's powerful run. The second was one of the finest individual tries for many seasons.

Corcoran had just kicked the second of his four penalty goals when Irish recycled possession from the kick-off. Humphreys, the stand-off half, took the ball 15 yards from his line, stepped inside the opposing back row, and broke downfield. His scorching pace took him past the midfield defenders and outside Jackson, the Wakefield full back, on a curving 95-yard run to the posts. It was a score of singular brilliance.

Irish led 25-3 before Jackson's kicking and Metcalfe's late try put some sheen on the home scoreboard, but Irish will go up worthy of the opportunity before them.

SCORERS: **Wakefield:** Try: Metcalfe **Conversion:** Jackson **Penalty goals:** Jackson (4) **London Irish:** Bird, Humphreys, Briers **Conversions:** Corcoran (2) **Penalty goals:** Corcoran (4)

WAKEFIELD: M Jackson, P White, P Maynard, A Metcalfe, M Glen; R Petyt, A Birkby; G Baldwin, T Garnett, R Latham, J Adams, S Croft, A Bailey, J Griffiths, N Green. White replaced by S Cowling (62min)

LONDON IRISH: C O'Shea, M Corcoran, R Henderson, P Flood, J Bishop, D Humphreys, N Briers; L Mooney, R Kellam, G Halpin, A Dougan, A Meadows, C Hall, C Bird, B Walsh

Referee: N Cousins (London)

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FOR THE RECORD

ATHLETICS

CROSS COUNTRY: Prudhoe: Durham Pine North Eastern Harrier League (5 miles) 1, S Bell (Chester-le-Street) 26min 46sec; 2, M McDaid (Wallsend) 28:09; 3, T Wall (Morpeth) 28:14. Teams: 1, Wallsend 131; 2, Crook & District 192; 3, Gateshead 310. Final standings: Individual: 1, Bell 47pts; 2, Wall 45; 3, T Field (Sunderland) 37. Teams: 1, Sunderland 11; 2, Crook & District 20; 3, South Shields 24. Wallsend: Durham Pine North Eastern Women's League (6km): 1, D Heneghan (Morpeth) 22:29; 2, S Allen (Houghton & Peterlee) 22:59; 3, K Waugh (Liverpool) 23:11. Teams: 1, Houghton and Peterlee 12; 2, Elvet 32; 3, Heaton 45. Final standings: Individual: 1, Heneghan 3; 2, Allen 6; 3, L Harding (Houghton & Peterlee) 10. Teams: 1, Houghton and Peterlee 7; 2, Elvet 30; 3, Tynedale 33.

ROAD RUNNING: Birmingham: Reebok Midland Counties twelve-stage relay championship (45.4 miles): 1, Tipton 3hrs 44min 02sec; 2, Coventry Godiva (holders) 3:46:52; 3, Westbury 3:47:04; 4, Telford 3.49:32; 5, Birchfield 3:51:42; 6, Stoke 3.52.14. Fastest laps: Short leg (3 miles): 1, I Gillespie (Birchfield) 13min 41sec; 2, G Tromans (Coventry Godiva) 13:46; 3, C Warren (Cannock & Stafford) 14.07. Long leg (5.3 miles). 1, M Flint (Telford) 25min 17sec; 2, R Birchall (Omega) 25.59; 3, R Whalley (Stoke) 26:04. Veterans six-stage (22.7 miles): 1, Redhill Road Runners 2hrs 01min 58sec; 2, Telford 2:02:59; 3, Tipton 2:03:11. Fastest lap: Short leg (3 miles): B Tennant (Redhill Road Runners) 15.40. Long leg (5.3 miles): P Warden (Redhill Road Runners) 27:39. Wilmslow: Allsports Wilmslow half-marathon: 1, E Martin (Basildon) 1hr 04min 32sec (course record); 2, P Banks (Blackburn) 1:06:01; 3, N Wetheridge (Basildon) 1:06:17. Team: Basildon 12pts. Women: 1, S Rigg (Warrington) 1:12:32 (course record); 2, C Shum (Cannock and Stafford) 1:13.04; 3, C Hunter-Rowe (Knavesmire) 1:17:26. Veteran: S Dolan (Imperial) 1.20:29. Newton Aycliffe: Lamplight (5 miles): 1, J Lisiewicz (Morpeth) 24:21; 2, K Harker (Morpeth) 25:42; 3, G Robinson (Chester-le-Street) 26:04. Women: 1, S Yardley (Hartlepool) 30:59; 2, S Gayter (Mandale) 31:57; 3, S Milburn (Newton Aycliffe) 32:43. Hyde Park: Serpentine (5km): 1, M Dyson (Serpentine) 15:53; 2, D O'Riordan (Belgrave) 15:59; 3, L Proudlock (North London) 16:16. Veteran: A Muir (Boston, USA) 15.19. Women: 1, M Braverman (Unattached) 17:48; 2, H Smedstad (Sweden) 17:54; 3, M Ellis (Shaftesbury Barnet) 17:58. Veteran: J Farmer (Serpentine) 21:18.

BASKETBALL

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Saturday: Derby 71 Sheffield 84; Leicester 102 Leopards 83; Manchester 89 Thames Valley 77; Hemel 102 Doncaster 78; Worthing 87 Birmingham 86. Yesterday: Chester Jets 71 London Towers 126

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA). Friday: Orlando 126 Toronto 86; New York 94 New Jersey 78; Boston 101 Philadelphia 95; Miami 112 Washington 93; LA Lakers 102 Atlanta 89; Minnesota 93 Indiana 91; San Antonio 119 Dallas 104, Utah 105 Vancouver 91; Phoenix 108 Milwaukee 85; Sacramento 107 Charlotte 101 (OT). Saturday: Chicago 106 LA Clippers 85; Miami 95 Detroit 85; Washington 107 Philadelphia 105, Portland 109 Houston 94; Denver 98 Milwaukee 85; Seattle 100 Utah 98, Cleveland 90 Golden State 64

BOWLS

ADELAIDE: Men's World Championships: Singles: Semi-finals: T Allcock (Eng) bt K Kerkow (Aus) 25-21; J Rabion (Isr) bt R Corsie (Scot) 25-16. Fours: Semi-finals: Wales (C Blake, J Davies, W Thomas, R Weale) bt Australia (I Taylor, C Curtis, R Johnston, S Anderson) 23-22; England (B Morley, D Cutler, J Bell, A Thomson) bt New Zealand (A Curtain, D Fie, G Lawson, P Bellise) 26-16.

BOXING

THE POINT, Dublin: World Boxing Council bantamweight championship (12rds): Wayne McCullough (Belfast, holder) bt Jose Luis Bueno (Mexico) pts.

MANAGUA, Nicaragua: World Boxing Association strawweight championship (12rds): Rosendo Alvarez (Nic, holder) bt Kermin Guardia (Col) ko 3rd.

VEJLE, Denmark: European Olympic qualifying tournament: Selected results: 51kg: J Turunen (Fin) bt D Costello (Eng) pts, C Molaro (It) bt F Darren (Wales) pts; D Kelly (Ire) bt D Olsson (Swe) pts; V Christoforidis (Gre) bt M Crossan (Scot) pts. 54kg: D McKenna (Ire) bt T Janevski (Macedonia) pts; 63.5kg: J Bielski (Pol) bt J Pender (Scot) pts, F Barrett (Ire) bt V Groushak (Mol) pts; 67kg: V Mezga (Balo) bt G Murphy (Scot) pts, H Al (Den) bt M Jones (Eng) pts, P Dostal (Cz) bt J Williams (Wales) pts; S Dzerchouk (Ukr) bt N Gough (Ire) pts.

CRICKET

One-day international

West Indies v New Zealand

PORT OF SPAIN. (New Zealand won toss) West Indies beat New Zealand by seven wicket

NEW ZEALAND

C M Spearman b Ambrose	7
R G Twose c and b Harper	48
N J Astle run out	43
S P Fleming c Walsh b Simmons	4
C L Cairns st Jacobs b Harper	38
A C Parore c Harper b Adams	33
C Z Harris run out	10
*†L K Germon not out	13
S A Thomson run out	6
D N Patel not out	3
Extras (b 1, lb 6, w 6, nb 1)	14
Total (8 wkts, 50 overs)	219

G R Larsen did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS 1-10, 2-104, 3-105, 4-113, 5-178, 6-197, 7-205, 8-215.

BOWLING: Ambrose 10-0-33-1; Walsh 10-2-37-0; Harper 10-0-45-2; Simmons 10-1-35-1; Adams 9-0-44-1; Williams 2-0-18-0.

WEST INDIES

S C Williams c Fleming b Larsen	4
S Chanderpaul lbw b Larsen	1
B C Lara not out	146
P V Simmons lbw b Larsen	47
J C Adams not out	24
Extras (lb 3)	3
Total (3 wkts, 45.4 overs)	225

R I C Holder, †R D Jacobs, R A Harper, L Williams, C E L Ambrose and *C A Walsh did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-5, 2-6, 3-118

BOWLING: Patel 10-0-45-0, Larsen 8 4-3-26-3. Astle 8-0-43-0, Harris 8-1-37-0, Thompson 4-0-24-0. Twose 3-0-19-0, Cairns 4-0-28-0.

Man-of-the-match: B C Lara.

Umpires: S Bucknor, L Barker.

Third umpire: R Gosein

Match referee: M Denness

ADELAIDE: Sheffield Shield: Final (second day of five): Western Australia 520-9 dec (A Gilchrist 189 not out, R Baker 83, T Moody 68) v South Australia 100-2 (P Nobes 57 not out).

MADRAS: Ranji Trophy (Final day of five): Karnataka 620-8 decl and 277-6 decl (Avinash Vaidya 61, Sujith Somasunder 53) bt Tamil Nadu 370 and 31-3.

CYCLING

ROAD RACES: Leicestershire RC Spring Classic (Packington, Leicestershire, 84 3m): Equal 1, B Clarke (Team Raleigh) and C Newton (North Wirral Velo) 3hr 19min 17sec; 3, K Dawson (Optimum Performance RT) same time. AXA Equity and Law Spring Classic (Great Milton, Oxfordshire, 60m) 1, L Rowe (Leo RC) 2:15:00. 2, A McCaffrey (Team Energy). 3, P Watkins (Wembley RC) all same time. VC Chesterfield (Clay Cross, 60m). 1, M Lovatt (Optimum Performance RT) 2:21:29. 2, P Curran (Optimum Performance RT) at 5sec; 3, R Holden (Gill Airways-Peugeot) at 1.47. Lune RCC (Carnforth, Lancashire, 54m): 1, R Clough (Stretford Wheelers) 2:14:00 2, G Butler (Norwood Paragon) at 10sec 3, M Lacey (Twickenham CC) same time. Calder Clarion (Wakefield, 50km): 1, D Timbers (Maltby CC) 1 10:35; 2, N Fox (Bradford Olympic) at 1sec; 3, D Watts (Halifax RC) same time.

TIME-TRIALS: Birmingham CC (team, 50km) 1, Parker International RT (I Gilkes, S Dangerfield, B Charley, J Tonks) 1 01:49 (event record); 2, Harlow Velodrome 1:04:16; 3, VC St Raphael 1:06:17. Bournemouth Jubilee Wheelers (hilly, 42km): 1, G Pickford (Antelope RT) 1 00:46; 2, L Paxton (Antelope RT) 1:01.24. 3, P Foxwell (Bournemouth Jubilee Wheelers) 1.01:36. Team: Bournemouth Jubilee Wheelers 3:07:15. Tyne RC (25m): 1, H Walker (GS Metro) 53:25; 2, C Bush (Middridge CRT) 58:04; 3, C Brennan (GS Metro) 58:25

Clevedon and Dist RC (two-up, 25m): 1, R Evans and M Purshouse (Warwickshire RC) 53:36, 2, K Townsend and S Hanadine (Ross-on-Wye and Dist CC) 56:26; 3, K Wood and P Underwood (Dursley RC) 57:41. Cleveleys RC (25m): 1, M Bowes (Cleveleys RC) 55 01, 2, P Jennings (N Wirral Velo) 55 31, 3, G Watts (Team Rapide) 57 15. Team: Team Rapide 2:51.59. VC Cumbria (25m) 1, P Brear (VC Cumbria) 56:21, 2, G Nowland (Team Rapide) 56 37, 3, T Bannard (VC Cumbria) 57:01. Team: VC Cumbria 2:54.05. Lincoln Wheelers (hilly, 25m): 1, G Platts (Coalville Wheelers) 56:56 (course record); 2, C Thompson (Coalville Wheelers) 59:02; 3, R Brewer (Lincoln Wheelers) 1:00:17. Team: Coalville Wheelers 2:57.55. Knaresborough RT (hilly, North Yorkshire, 25m): 1, K Murray (Knaresborough RT) 1:01:23 (course record); 2, J Wainman (Hull Thursday RC) 1:02:47, 3, H Botting (Northern Velo) 1 03:15. Team: Otley CC 3:19:41. Cardiff 100 Miles RCC (hilly, 25m): 1, M Postle (Team Energy) 1 02:15; 2, C Wallace (Hirwaun Wheelers) 1 03:13; 3, R Rowlands (Abertillery and Dist Wheelers) 1 05.22. Team: Abertillery and Dist Wheelers 3:27:22. Teesdale CRC (sporting, 24 4m). 1, N Jackson (Cleveland Wheelers) 56:27, 2, D Cook (Middridge CRT) 57:27, 3, S Fullerton (Richmond and Darlington CC) 1:00:59. Team: Cleveland Wheelers 3:00:29. Gala CC (Selkirk, mountain, 20 5m) 1, R Todd (GS Modena) 52:17, 2, J Gladwell (Edinburgh Bicycle) 52:38; 3, M Williamson (City of Edinburgh RC) 53:38. Team: Penicuik RT 2:50:55. Crewe Clarion Wheelers (hilly, 17m). 1, S Hulme (Tunstall Wheelers) 39:20; 2, M Cotgreave (Westmead) 39:26; 3, J Findlay (Lyme) 39:48. Team: Seamons 2:06 38. Denny RC (Falkirk, 10m) G Harris (Angus) 22:58, 2, G Hutchison (Dunfermline and Dist) 23:03; 3, D Barnes (Dunfermline and Dist) 23:54

GOLF

CARMONA: Philippine Open Championship: Final scores: 278: R Whitlock (Aus) 67, 72, 69, 70 (won play-off). T Straub (US) 69, 69, 67, 73 279: B Wilson (US) 73, 63, 74, 69

ICE HOCKEY

WEMBLEY: British championships: Semi-finals: Sheffield 6 Humberside 3, Nottingham 3 Durham 1

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Friday: Philadelphia 6 Buffalo 5 (OT), Washington 5 Ottawa 0; Los Angeles 4 Calgary 3; Edmonton 3 Winnipeg 2; Vancouver 4 Chicago 2. Saturday: Hartford 3 NY Islanders 1; Pittsburg 2 New Jersey 1, Pittsburgh 2 New Jersey 1; Tampa Bay 2 Florida 1; Montreal 3 Ottawa 1, Toronto 4 Edmonton 3

LACROSSE

CARDIFF: Women's Home International: Wales 3 Scotland 9; Wales (B) 7 Scotland (B) 6.

SHEPHERDS FRIENDLY SOCIETY: Premier division: Cheadle H 10 Cheadle 16, Timperley 7 Boardman and E 8, O Waconians 14 Poynton 6. Postponed: Sheffield v Heaton M. First division: Sale 5 Moorthorpe 11; Cheadle A 1 Heaton Mersey Guild 0. No result: Nottingham University v Old Waconians A, Sheffield Univ v Stopfordians. Postponed: Heaton Mersey A v Ashton

MOTORCYCLING

DONINGTON PARK: British Superbike Championship: First round: (15 laps, 37.5 miles): 1, N Mackenzie (Cadbury Boost Yamaha) 24min 21.24sec (average speed 92.38mph), 2, S Hislop (Red Bull Kawasaki) 24.33.94; 3, I Simpson (Duckhams Ducati) 24 35.78; 4, C Walker (Old Spice Ducati) 24.39 58; 5, D Ashton (Bax Ducati) 24:39.83; 6, J Moodie (Duckhams Ducati) 24:45 61. Fastest lap: Mackenzie 1 35.47 (94.27). Second round (15 laps: 37.5 miles): 1, T Rymer (Old Spice Ducati) 24.23.29 (92 25), 2, Mackenzie 24:36.26, 3, Simpson 24:42 71; 4, Moodie 24:42.77; 5, G Ward (Ducati) 24 49 81; 6, M Rutter (McCullock Ducati) 24:55 47. Fastest lap: Rymer 1 35.95 (93.79). Championship standings: 1, Mackenzie 45pts; 2, Simpson 32, 3, Rymer 25; 4, Moodie 23, 5, Hislop 20. British 250cc Supercup (10 laps) 1, J Vincent (Honda) 16 40 61 (89 94), 2, S Sawford (Aprilia) 16 44 72; 3, S Smart (Honda) 16 51 74. Fastest lap: Vincent 1:38 98 (90 92). British 125cc Supercup (10 laps) 1, S Patrickson (Honda) 17:37 78 (85.08), 2, R Appleyard (Honda) 17 38 39; 3, C Palmer (Honda) 17 38 77. Fastest lap: Appleyard 1 44.22 (86 35).

ASTI, Italy: World championship: First round: 500cc: First race: 1, S King (N Z, KTM); 2, P Johansson (Swe, Husqvarna); 3, D Lacher (Ger, Honda); 4, D King (NZ, Honda) 5, R Walkner (NZ, KTM); 6, J Martens (Bel, Husqvarna). Second race: 1, King; 2, J Smets (Bel, Husaberg); 3, F Rossi (It, KTM), 4, M Healey (US, KTM), 5, Martens; 6, G J Van Doorn (Holl, Honda). Overall and world championship standings: 1, King 40pts, 2, Smets 23, 3, Johansson 23, 4, D King 22; 5, Martens 21, 6, Walkner 19

ROWING

TIDEWAY HEAD OF THE RIVER RACE: 1, Leander I 17min 30.29sec (Page Trophy winner), 2, University of London 17.40 06 (Vernon Trophy winner), 3, Molesey I 17:48 2; 4, London I 17:48 74; 5, Notts County II 17 52.95; 6, Leander II 17.56 38; 7, Nottingham County I 17.57, 8, Berliner (Ger) 18.04 (overseas winner); 9, Neptune Dublin 18 08; 10, Rauxel (Germany) 18 08 7. Other division winners: Ortner Shield: Oxford Brookes I 18 13. Senior I: London Univ III 18.21. Senior II (Jackson Trophy): Nottingham Boat Club III 18 30. Senior III: Grasshoppers Zurich (Switz) 18 32. Novice: Girton College Cambridge 19.32. UAU Trophy: Oxford Brookes II 18.44. Services Trophy: Royal Engineers 19 05

RUGBY LEAGUE

Stones Super League

Yesterday

Leeds	18	Warrington	22

Leeds: Tries: Fozzard, Iro, Mann. Goals: Holroyd 3. Warrington: Tries: Harris, Knott, Mafi. Goals: Harris 5. Att: 10,036

Workington	0	St Helens	62

St Helens: Tries: Arnold 4, Hammond, Newlove 3, Perelini, Prescott, Veivers. Goals: Goulding 9. Att: 3,641

Saturday

Halifax	22	London	24

Halifax: Tries: Baldwin, M Jackson, Schuster, Umaga. Goals: Schuster 3. London: Tries: Carroll, Pitt, Rea, Shaw. Goals: Barwick 4. Att: 4,562

Oldham	16	Wigan	56

Oldham: Tries: Abram, Maloney, Myler. Goals: Maloney 2. Wigan: Tries: Connolly 3, Edwards 2, Hall, Offiah 2, Paul, Radlinski 2. Goals: Farrell 6. Att: 7,716.

(at: Boundary Park, Oldham)

First division

Huddersfield	21	Salford	26
Hull	52	Wakefield	2
Keighley	54	Dewsbury	2

Second division

Carlisle	66	Chorley	18
Doncaster	60	Barrow	16
Prescot	10	Hunslet	36
York	23	Swinton	18

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Premier division: Dudley Hill 22 West Hull 24; Egremont 14 Leigh MW 32; Hemel Hempstead 25 Millom 16, Mayfield 18 Wigan St Patricks 26; Saddleworth 34 Lock Lane 12

BNFL NATIONAL CUP: Quarter-finals: Ellenborough 22 Walnut Warriors 14. Skirlaugh 52 Kells 14; Wath Brow Hornets 18 Wigan St Judes 20; West Bowling 6 Woolston 9

SCHOOL SPORT

CROSS COUNTRY: Irvine: TSB British Schools International: Intermediate boys: 1, J Stewart (England) 20min 39sec 2, C Conway (England) 20 40, 3, M Smith (Scotland) 20:47. Teams: 1, England 25pts; 2, Scotland 88; 3, Ireland 100, 4, Wales 113. Intermediate girls: 1, J Swallow (England) 14:44, 2, K Grimshaw (England) 14:45, 3, A Gascoigne (England) 14.45. Teams: 1, England 28, 2, Scotland 93, 3, Ireland 98, 4, Wales 110. Junior boys: 1, M Smith (Ireland) 15 00, 2, A McIndoe (Scotland) 15 16, 3, C Iddon (England) 15 16. Teams: 1, England 50; 2, Ireland 73; 3, Scotland 86, 4, Wales 103. Junior girls: 1, N Coates (England) 10 56, 2, J Mickler (England) 11:03, 3, E Ward (England) 11 08. Teams: 1, England 29; 2, Ireland 70; 3, Wales 104, 4, Scotland 112

FOOTBALL: Vale Cup: East Berks 1 Vale of White Horse 2. Beauloy Cup: Semi-final (Under 16): South London 1 Islington 2. Pickford Shield: Semi-final (Under 15): Portsmouth 1 Southampton 3. Wagner Trophy: Aldershot 2 East Berks 1. Guggenheim League: Southampton 2 Reading 1. Rangers Trophy (Under 14): Islington 3 Hackney 0. Goodhand Trophy: Semi-final: Chesterfield 0 Hull 2. Cobbin Cup: Semi-final: Nottingham 2 Worksop 0. Brook Trophy: Semi-final: Islington 2 West London 0. Woodward: Semi-final: Oldham 4 Trafford 1. West Yorkshire League: Wakefield 1 Hull 2. Vernon League: Crosby 5 Bootle 1. Wirral 4 Skelmersdale 0. Norris Cup: Semi-final: South Notts 2 Nottingham 1. Thornton Trophy: Semi-final: South London 1 Islington 3. Stokes Cup: Semi-final: Isle of Wight 1 Southampton 3, Gosport 1 Basingstoke 4. Staffs League: Walsall 1 Solihull 2. Inter Association: Wakefield 2 Hull 4; Hackney 2 Bermondsey 0; Kirkby Knowsley 2 Rochdale 1, St Helens 2 Thameside 2. English Schools Goodyear Trophy (under 16): Semi-final: St Francis Xavier, Merseyside 3; George Stephenson, Northumberland 1. Chester: North West England six-a-side championships: Semi-finals: Merseyside 1 West Yorkshire 1 (Merseyside won 4-1 on penalties): Cumbria 1 Cleveland 0. Final: Merseyside 0 Cumbria 1 (aet). Bexley: Kent six-a-side championships: semi-finals: Bexley C 1 Bexley B 2, Dartford A2 Bexley A1. Final: Dartford 0 Bexley 3.

RUGBY FIVES: St Pauls School, Barnes: National Schools Championships: Open singles: Quarter-finals: J Welch (St Dunstan's) bt A Lawson (Clifton) 11-4, 12-10; A Allbhai (St Pauls) bt C Jones (Whitgift) 11-4, 11-1. A Strang (Merchiston Castle) bt J Lofthouse (Sedbergh) 11-4. 11-1; P Lord (Bradfield) bt T Morgan (Sherborne) 11-3, 12-10. Semi-finals: Welch bt Allbhai 11-8, 5-11, 11-5; Strang bt Lord 11-7, 11-5. Final: Strang bt Welch 11-7, 1-5. Open doubles: Quarter-finals: Sedbergh I bt St Pauls I 11-5, 11-9; Merchant Taylors' I bt Sherborne 11-1, 11-5; St Dunstan's I bt Whitgift 11-6, 4-11, 11-6; Bradfield I bt St Pauls II 11-6, 11-6. Semi-finals: Sedbergh bt Merchant Taylors 11-6, 11-8; Bradfield bt St Dunstan's 11-9, 11-5. Final: Sedbergh bt Brandfield 11-6, 11-7. Under-16: Singles: Quarter-finals: M Tsang (St Pauls) bt S Beal (Eastbourne) 7-11, 11-7, 11-9, G Comer (St Pauls) bt G Price (Merchant Taylors) 11-4, 11-1; P Caroe (Eastbourne) bt C McCabe (St Pauls) 11-0, 11-6; W Jefferson (Oundle) bt M Bate (Eastbourne) 11-4, 11-5. Semi-finals: Comer bt Tsang 11-5, 12-11, Jefferson bt Caroe 11-3, 11-5. Final: Comer bt Jefferson 11-3, 12-10. Under-16: Doubles: Quarter-finals: St Pauls II bt Winchester 11-8, 11-6; Oundle bt Tonbridge I 11-4, 11-4; Merchant Taylors I bt St Pauls I 7-11, 11-9, 11-9; Eastbourne I bt St Dunstan's I 11-6, 11-0. Semi-finals: St Pauls bt Oundle 11-9, 11-7; Eastbourne bt Merchant Taylors 11-7, 11-2. Final: St Pauls bt Eastbourne 10-12, 12-11, 11-2. Under-14: Singles: Final: P Mann (St Pauls) bt A Samuda (St Dunstan's) 11-2. Under-14: Doubles: Final: St Pauls bt Marcham Taylors 11-7

SNOOKER

KILDARE: Benson and Hedges Irish Masters: Semi-finals: D Morgan (Wales) bt J Swail (N Ire) 6-5. S Davis (Eng) bt K Doherty (Ire) 6-4

PLYMOUTH: British Open: First round: T Knowles (Eng) bt J Michie (Eng) 5-3. D Reynolds (Eng) bt D McDonnell (Eng) 5-4. D O'Kane (NZ) bt M Couch (Eng) 5-2.

SPEEDWAY

PREMIER LEAGUE: Bradford 52 Wolverhampton 44; Coventry 54 Ipswich 42. Cradley Heath and Stoke 56 Long Eaton 40. Swindon 53 Oxford 43.

SWIMMING

STOCKPORT: British club team championships: Winners: Men: Freestyle (400m): I Wilson (Leeds) 3 54 82 (1,500m). I Wilson (Leeds) 15:12 80. Backstroke (100m) N Willey (Barnet Copthall) 53.96 (200m): A Ruckwood (Birmingham) 1:56.88. Medley (200m): M How (Wigan) 2:03.79. Freestyle relay (4 x 100m): Sheffield 3:19 41 (GB club record). Medley relay (4 x 100m) Birmingham 3:42.40 (GB club record). Women: Freestyle (400m) M Hardiman (Birmingham) 4 16 80 (800m) E Mortensen (Leeds) 8:54 30. Backstroke (100m). S Price (Barnet Copthall) 1:03 58 (200m) S Price (Barnet Copthall) 2:12 91. Freestyle relay (4 x 100m) Newcastle 3 54 80. Medley relay (4 x 100m): Leeds 4:19 28. Final standings: Men: 1, Birmingham 13,288pts. 2, Leeds 12,882. 3, Cardiff 12,691; 4, Sheffield 12,540; 5, Portsmouth Northsea 12,165, 6, Loughborough 12.015. Women: 1, Leeds 12,116pts. 2, Newcastle 11,902; 3, Portsmouth N 11,814. 4, Birmingham 11 803; 5, Barnet C 11,692, 6, Coventry 11,444. Overall: 1, Birmingham 25,091, 2, Leeds 24,998; 3, Portsmouth N 23,979, 4, Loughborough 23,425, 5, Warrington 23,285; 6, Barnet Copthall 23,174

TENNIS

KEY BISCANE, Florida: Lipton Championships: Men: Singles: Semi-finals: A Agassi (US) bt A Boetsch (Fr) 6-4, 6-3. G Ivanisevic (Cro) bt P Sampras (US) 2-6, 6-4, 6-4. Doubles: Final: M Woodforde and T Woodbridge (Aus) bt W Ferreira (SA) and P Galbraith (US) 6-1, 6-3. Women: Singles: Final: S Graf (Ger) bt C Rubin (US) 6-1, 6-3. Doubles: Final: J Novotna (Cz) and A Sanchez Vicario (Sp) bt M McGrath (Switz) and L Neiland (Lat) 6-4, 6-4

MOROCCO: Men's tournament: Semi-finals: G Schaller (Austria) bt A Berasategui (Sp) 7-6, 7-5, T Carbonell (Sp) bt A Chesnokov (Russ) 6-4, 4-6, 6-1

WIRRAL: LTA Reebok Tour: Finals: Men: T Sparks (Norfolk) bt C Wilkinson (Hampshire) 6-2, 1-6, 6-3. Women: S Smith (Essex) bt T Price (SA) 2-6, 6-4, 6-3.

HOCKEY

MEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Cannock 2 Southgate 0, Canterbury 5 Trojans 1, East Grinstead 2 St Albans 2; Havant 0 Reading 0, Hounslow 3 Teddington 5; Hull 0 Guildford 6, Old Loughtonians 5 Indian Gymkhana 0, Stourport 4 Barford Tigers 4. Surbiton 2 Bournville 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cannock	17	13	3	1	75	15	[illegible]
Reading	17	11	5	1	59	25	[illegible]
Old Loughtonians	17	12	2	3	54	24	[illegible]
Guildford	17	11	4	2	64	31	37
Southgate	17	11	3	3	57	22	36
Surbiton	17	9	4	4	44	25	31
East Grinstead	17	8	3	6	46	40	27
Canterbury	17	8	2	7	32	33	26
Havant	17	8	2	7	38	[illegible]	26
Teddington	17	7	4	6	35	35	25
Hounslow	17	7	2	8	30	[illegible]	[illegible]
Barford Tigers	17	6	4	7	37	40	22
Trojans	17	4	3	10	22	45	15
Stourport	17	2	5	10	27	56	[illegible]
Indian Gymkhana	17	2	2	12	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Bournville	17	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
St Albans	17	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Hull	17	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

HA TROPHY Semi-finals: [illegible]

ADNAMS EAST LEAGUE: Premier division B: [illegible]

CLUB MATCHES: [illegible] Newport 3 Bath 2 Robinsons 3 Lansdown 1 Tunbridge Wells 1 Beckenham 2

ESSEX CUP. Final. Old Loughtonians [illegible]

WOMEN'S LEAGUE: Premier division. Saturday: Balsam Leicester 2 Doncaster 1. Hightown 0 Ipswich 1, Slough 3 Bracknell 0, Sutton Canada Life 3 Clifton 1. Yesterday: Hightown 1 Balsam Leicester 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hightown	13	8	2	3	25	10	26
Sutton CL	13	7	4	2	24	11	25
Ipswich	13	7	2	4	23	11	23
Slough	13	7	0	6	17	17	21
Clifton	13	6	2	5	16	12	20
B Leicester	13	5	5	3	16	17	20
Doncaster	13	3	1	9	12	22	10
Bracknell	13	0	2	11	3	38	2

FIRST DIVISION: Bluecharts 2 Exmouth 4, Canterbury 1 Chelmsford 1. Sunderland Bedans 0 Bradford Swithenbank 0, Wimbledon 1 Trojans 1. Second division: Loughborough 2 St Albans 1, Olton 2 Aldridge 1. Reading 0 Sherwood 1, Woking 0 Ealing 1

AEWHA CUP: Quarter-finals, Chelmsford Broadoak 1 Aldridge 0; Clifton 1 Slough 1 (Clifton win 3-0 on pens); Ipswich 1 Olton 0. North Staffs 0 Doncaster 3

AEWHA PLATE: Fifth round: Bexleyheath 0 Kettering 1. Horsham 1 Welton 2, Polytechnic 0 Bishop's Stortford 2. Worksop 3 Lillington Warwick 0

REGIONAL LEAGUES: South: City of Portsmouth 5 Hendon 0, Dulwich 1 Worthing 1. Southampton 2 Winchester 0, West Witney 4 Camberley 1. Midlands: Kettering 1 Crimson R 1, Leicester 3 Pickwick 1, Peverel 2 Bedford 1, Tamworth 1 Hampton 5. North: Blackburn 1 Sheffield 1, Carlisle 0 York 1, Don Valley 2 Poynton 6, Liverpool 3 Newcastle 1. West: Bournemouth 1 E Glos 1, Colwall 2 Wimborne 1, Leominster 0 Cheltenham 1. St Austell 0 Yate 2

MILTON KEYNES: Home countries youth tournaments: Under-18: England 4 Ireland 1: Scotland 2 Wales 0; England 7 Scotland 2. Wales 0 Ireland 2; Ireland 3 Scotland 0: England 1 Wales 1. Final standings: 1, England 5pts, 2, Ireland 4, 3, Scotland 2. Under-16: England 3 Ireland 1: Scotland 0 Wales 1; Wales 1 Ireland 1: England 4 Scotland 0; Ireland 2 Scotland 0. England 2 Wales 0. Final standings: 1, England 6, 2, Ireland 3, 3, Wales 3.

RUGBY UNION

Courage Clubs Championship

First division

Bristol	5	Bath	43

Bristol: Try: Thomas. Bath: Tries: De Glanville, Geoghegan 2, Guscott 2, Hilton, Lumsden. Cons: Callard 4.

Harlequins	55	Sale	0

Harlequins: Tries: Bromley 3, O'Leary, Staples 2, Watson 2. Cons: Challinor 3. Pen: Challinor. Dropped goals: Challinor, Staples.

Orrell	10	Leicester	38

Orrell: Try: Smith. Con: Mason. Pen: Mason. Leicester: Tries: Liley, Underwood 2, Wells. Cons: Liley 3. Pens: Liley 4.

(at Central Park, Wigan)

Wasps	21	Gloucester	10

Wasps: Tries: Roiser 2, White. Cons: Braithwaite 3. Gloucester: Try: penalty try. Con: Fenwick. Pen: Fenwick.

West Hartlepool	31	Saracens	41

West Hartlepool: Tries: Ions, Lee, Wood. Cons: Oliphant 2. Pens: Oliphant 3. Dropped goal: Oliphant. Saracens: Tries: Botterman, Diprose, Langley, Lee. Cons: Lee 3. Pens: Hughes, Lee 3. Dropped goal: Lee.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bath	13	12	0	1	421	181	24
Harlequins	15	11	0	4	455	235	22
Leicester	13	11	0	2	339	164	22
Wasps	14	8	0	6	280	276	16
Sale	14	7	0	7	255	273	14
Orrell	14	6	0	8	226	331	12
Bristol	13	5	0	8	199	312	10
Saracens	14	5	0	9	237	374	10
Gloucester	13	3	0	10	199	275	6
W Hartlepool	13	0	0	13	223	423	0

LEADING SCORERS: 203: J Liley (Leicester: 2 tries, 20 conversions, 50 penalty goals, 1 dropped goal). 178: J Callard (Bath: 3t, 35c, 31pg). 138: S Mason (Orrell: 3t, 12c, 33pg). 127: R Liley (Sale: 2t, 15c, 27pg, 2dg). 128: A Lee (Saracens: 2t, 7c, 29pg, 5dg). 110: T Stimpson (West Hartlepool: 5t, 8c, 23pg). 85: D Pears (Harlequins, 11c, 14pg, 7dg). 78: P Challinor (Harlequins: 3t, 15c, 9pg, 2dg). Tries: 11: S Bromley (Harlequins). 9: D O'Leary (Harlequins). 8: J Guscott (Bath), G Smith (Orrell). 7: A Lumsden (Bath). 6: A Adebayo (Bath), S Hackney (Leicester), R Kitchin (Harlequins), J Staples (Harlequins)

Second division

Bedford	21	London Scottish	19

Bedford: Tries: Allen, Cook. Con: Tapper. Pens: Tapper 2. Dropped goal: Cook. London Scottish: Tries: Duthie, Robinson, Holmes. Cons: Harold 2

Blackheath	10	Northampton	24

Blackheath: Try: Walton. Con: Howard. Pen: Howard. Northampton: Tries: Bayfield, Clarke, Phillips, Pountney. Cons: Grayshon 2.

Nottingham	46	Moseley	27

Nottingham: Tries: Gallagher, Carroll, Reed 2, Royer 3. Cons: Gallagher, Hodgkinson 4. Pen: Hodgkinson. Moseley: Tries: Bonney, Kerr, penalty try. Cons: Kerr 3. Pens: Kerr 2.

Wakefield	19	London Irish	31

Wakefield: Try: Metcalfe. Con: Jackson. Pens: Jackson 4. London Irish: Tries: Bird, Briers, Humphries. Cons: Corcoran 2. Pens: Corcoran 4.

Waterloo	13	Newcastle	36

Waterloo: Try: McCaugheran. Con: Emmett. Pens: Emmett 2. Newcastle: Tries: Armstrong 3, Popplewell 2. Cons: Andrew 2, Cramb 2. Pen: Andrew.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Northampton	14	14	0	0	679	155	28
London Irish	15	12	0	3	483	341	24
London Scot	15	9	2	4	306	259	20
Waterloo	15	6	2	7	271	379	14
Wakefield	14	6	0	8	235	247	12
Moseley	15	6	0	9	253	362	12
Blackheath	15	5	1	9	241	362	11
Bedford	15	5	1	9	257	442	11
Newcastle	15	4	1	10	270	339	9
Nottingham	15	3	1	11	264	373	7

LEADING SCORERS: 264: M Corcoran (London Irish: 8 tries, 31 conversions, 54 penalty goals). 156: P Grayson (Northampton; 3t, 54c, 8pg). 146: A Kerr (Moseley: 6t, 10c, 30pg, 2 dropped goals). 134: M Emmett (Waterloo: 1t, 12c, 35pg). 129: S Hodgkinson (Nottingham; 12c, 32pg, 3dg). 124: M Jackson (Wakefield, 14c, 32pg). 118: S Howard (Blackheath; 2t, 12c, 23pg, 5dg). 105: J Steele (London Scottish; 2t, 13c, 21pg, 2dg). 85: A Finnie (Bedford, 1t, 16c, 13pg, 3dg). Tries: 15: M Allen (Northampton). 13: G Seely (Northampton), G Townsend (Northampton). 9: C O'Shea (London Irish). 8: Corcoran. 7: M Dawson (Northampton), M Dods (Northampton), M Oliver (Bedford), A Pountney (Northampton).

Third division

Coventry	64	Otley	14

Coventry: Tries: Eves, Hardwick, Horrobin 3, Lydster, Thomas, Reayer 2, Woodman. Cons: Thomas 7. Otley: Tries: Atkinson, Flint. Cons: Rutledge 2

Fylde	30	Rosslyn Park	13

Fylde: Tries: Anderton, Barclay, Parker. Cons: Gough 3. Pens: Gough 3. Rosslyn Park: Try: Stratford. Con: Maddock. Pens: Rowland 2.

Harrogate	3	Rugby	8

Harrogate: Pen: Zoing. Rugby: Try: Saunders. Pen: Quantrill

Richmond	28	Reading	17

Richmond: Tries: Clark 2, Elliott, Hutton. Con: Gregory. Pens: Gregory 2. Reading: Tries: Armstrong, Phillips. Cons: Belshaw 2. Pen: Belshaw

Rotherham	29	Morley	21

Rotherham: Tries: Burnhill, Sellork 2. Con: Plant. Pens: Plant 4. Morley: Tries: Emerson, Holdsworth. Con: Grayshon. Pens: Grayshon 3.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Richmond	15	12	1	2	395	190	25
Coventry	15	12	0	3	411	204	24
Rugby	14	10	1	3	301	195	21
Rotherham	15	9	0	6	302	322	18
Morley	15	7	1	7	275	276	15
Harrogate	15	5	2	8	253	325	12
Otley	15	5	1	9	223	380	11
Reading	15	4	1	10	323	360	9
Rosslyn Park	14	3	2	9	229	307	8
Fylde	15	2	1	12	225	378	5

LEADING SCORERS: 180: R Zoing (Harrogate: 3 tries, 12 conversions, 44 penalty goals, 3 dropped goal). 175: J Gregory (Richmond; 3t, 26c, 36pg). 170: J Grayshon (Morley; 2t, 17c, 38pg, 4dg). 153: J Quantrill (Rugby: 3t, 18c, 34pg). 127: P Rutledge (Otley: 1t, 7c, 36pg). 117: K Plant (Rotherham; 12c, 27pg, 4dg). 110: S Gough (Fylde, 2t, 11c, 26pg). 91: P Belshaw (Reading: 1t, 13c, 20pg). 84: C Quick (Coventry; 1t, 8c, 21pg). Tries: 9: C Phillips (Reading), E Saunders (Rugby). 8: A Boyd (Richmond), J Horrobin (Coventry), 8: B Shepherd (Coventry).

Fourth division

Aspatria	31	London Welsh	18
Clifton	30	Liverpool St H	10
Havant	24	Exeter	6
Plymouth	13	Leeds	24
Redruth	17	Walsall	21

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Exeter	15	12	0	3	363	179	24
Liverpool St H	15	10	1	4	413	272	21
London W	15	10	0	5	351	214	20
Havant	15	7	1	7	250	292	15
Leeds	15	7	1	7	238	287	15
Walsall	15	7	0	8	325	277	14
Clifton	15	6	1	8	235	239	13
Redruth	15	6	1	8	293	331	13
Aspatria	15	4	1	10	269	388	9
Plymouth	15	3	0	12	199	455	6

Fifth division north

Birmingham	15	Broughton Park	11
Kendal	20	Winnington Park	18
Lichfield	34	Wharfedale	68
Nuneaton	8	Sandal	38
Sheffield	28	Preston G	13
Stoke	9	Stourbridge	20

Fifth division south

Askeans	6	Weston-s-Mare	31
Barking	35	North Walsham	15
Berry Hill	29	Cheltenham	23
Camberley	12	Henley	47
Lydney	40	Camborne	15
Met Police	9	Tabard	10

LONDON: First division: Basingstoke 18 Southend 27; Charlton Park 30 Sudbury 3; Harlow 27 Ealing 8; Old Colfeians 10 Esher 20; Old Mid-Whitgiftians 10 Ruislip 25; Sutton and Epsom 27 Staines 20

MIDLANDS: First division: Barkers Butts 20 Syston 11; Burton 16 Hereford 26, Leamington 32 Mansfield 10, Stafford 8 Leighton Buzzard 18; Westleigh 19 Broadstreet 29; Whitchurch 23 Wolverhampton 15

NORTH: First division: Hull Ionians 20 Widnes 16, Manchester 55 York 0; Middlesbrough 6 Bridlington 6; Stockton 8 Huddersfield 3; Tynedale 14 Macclesfield 14; Wigton 18 Bradford and Bingley 31

SOUTH WEST: First division: Barnstaple 29 St Ives 8; Brixham 33 Sherborne 20; Cinderford 3 Matson 39; Salisbury [illegible]; Newbury 22; Taunton 5; Maidenhead 44 Torquay 11 Gloucester OB 15

Heineken League

First division

Cardiff	95	Abertillery	25

Cardiff: Tries: A Davies, A Lewis, [illegible] Ford 5, G Jones 2, Hall 2, [illegible] Stewart Williams. Cons: A Booth, Ford, [illegible] Williams. Abertillery: Tries: [illegible]. Conett, M Williams. [illegible]

Ebbw Vale	21	Aberavon	12

Ebbw Vale: Tries: Hudson, Price. Con: Hayward. Pens: Hayward 2. Dropped goal: Hayward. Aberavon: Tries: Barclay, Jardine. Con: Lay.

Neath	65	Newport	23

Neath: Tries: Evans 2, Morgan, Davies, penalty try, Richard Jones 2, S Williams. Cons: Morgan 8. Pens: Morgan 3. Newport: Tries: Davies, R Rees. Cons: G Rees 2. Pens: G Rees 3

Treorchy	12	Newbridge	10

Treorchy: Pens: D Evans 2. Dropped goals: D Evans 2. Newbridge: Tries: S Rees, Jones.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	T	B	Pts
Neath	16	11	1	4	479	228	71	21	44
Pontypridd	16	13	0	3	505	223	69	17	42
Cardiff	15	12	0	3	537	242	67	18	40
Llanelli	15	11	0	4	419	203	57	13	40
Swansea	18	10	0	8	499	347	68	18	38
Bridgend	18	9	0	9	428	414	55	16	34
Newport	17	10	1	6	370	416	31	7	29
Newbridge	18	8	0	10	277	330	37	8	24
Ebbw Vale	19	9	0	10	343	435	36	6	24
Treorchy	17	4	0	13	272	539	28	5	13
Abertillery	18	2	0	16	278	742	29	5	9
Aberavon	17	2	0	15	215	503	22	3	7

Second division

Abercynon	13	Llandovery	9

Abercynon: Tries: Cummings, Keepings. Pen: Savage. Llandovery: Pens: Lloyd-Jones 3.

Bonymaen	22	Pontypool	15

Bonymaen: Tries: Alexander, Dacey, Jones, Roberts. Con: Roberts. Pontypool: Tries: Rhead, W Morris. Con: Williams. Pen: Williams.

Cross Keys	22	Dunvant	18

Cross Keys: Try: Bebb. Con: Bebb. Pens: Bebb 5. Dunvant: Try: D Morgan. Con: D Morgan. Pens: D Morgan 3.

Llanharan	16	Caerphilly	22

Llanharan: Try: Evans. Con: Jervis. Pens: Jervis 3. Caerphilly: Tries: Hawthorne, Stent 2. Cons: Conway. P Phillips. Pen: Conway.

Maesteg	26	Tenby Utd	14

Maesteg: Tries: Davey, H Lewis, Neil. Con: Pearce. Pens: Pearce 3. Tenby Utd: Try: Bowen. Pens: Bowen 3.

Ystradgynlais	25	S Wales Police	22

Ystradgynlais: Tries: G Jones, J Hopkins, Love. Cons: Nottingham 2. Pens: Nottingham 2. South Wales Police: Tries: Alan Davies, Alun Davies, penalty try. Cons: Price 2. Pen: Price.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	T	B	Pts
Dunvant	17	13	0	4	401	198	53	15	41
Caerphilly	18	14	0	4	333	228	40	10	38
Pontypool	19	11	0	8	451	335	57	14	36
Cross Keys	19	9	0	10	412	336	48	12	30
Bonymaen	18	9	0	9	368	358	44	11	29
Llandovery	18	11	0	7	288	303	30	4	26
S W Police	19	7	0	12	384	394	44	11	25
Maesteg	19	9	0	10	316	369	34	5	24
Ystradgynlais	19	9	0	10	293	341	33	5	23
Abercynon	18	8	0	10	260	295	30	4	20
Llanharan	18	6	0	12	298	430	27	2	14
Tenby Utd	18	4	0	14	235	432	26	3	11

THIRD DIVISION: Blaina 0 Mountain Ash 0; Builth Wells 20 Cardiff Inst 10; Narberth 57 Glamorgan Wndrs 19; Penarth 10 Tondu 19; Pyle 3 Kenfig Hill 11; Tredegar 6 Blackwood 10

Tennents 1556 Cup

Fifth round

Dundee HSFP	17	Jed-Forest	6

Dundee HSFP: Tries. Gray, Hamilton. Cons: Pearson 2. Pen: Pearson. Jed-Forest: Pens: McKenzie 2

Glasgow Acads	29	Gala	6

Glasgow Acads: Tries: Ablett 2, Matthewson 2, Simmers. Cons: McGregor 2. Gala: Pen: D Changing. Dropped goal: G Dalgleish

Hawick	52	Biggar	17

Hawick: Tries: Murray 2, Reid, Suddon 2, T Stanger 2. Cons: Welsh 4. Pens: Welsh 3. Biggar: Tries: Hunter, Young. Cons: Lavery 2. Pen: Lavery

Kilmarnock	27	Corstorphine	8

Kilmarnock: Tries: Carswell, Duncan, Hobson, Welsh. Cons: Stewart 2. Pen: Stewart. Corstorphine: Try: Howells. Pen: Thrower.

Musselburgh	17	Preston Lodge	20

Musselburgh: Try: C Livingstone. Pens: Stewart 4. Preston Lodge: Tries: Henderson, Martin. Stewart. Con: D Allan. Pen: D Allan

Stewarts Mel FP	20	Heriots FP	25

Stewarts Mel FP: Try: Milligan. Pens: Thomson 4. Dropped goal: Paxton. Heriots FP: Tries: Dall, Fowler, Officer. Cons: C Glasgow 2. Pens: C Glasgow 2

Watsonians	98	Langholm	3

Watsonians: Tries: F Henderson, Hannah, Hodge, Kerr 5, Lee, Mather 2, S Hastings 2, Smith, Weston. Cons: Hodge 10. Pen: Hodge. Langholm: Pen: Paterson

TENNENTS 1556 BOWL: First round: Annan 67 Perthshire 19; Ayr 29 Dunfermline 16; Edinburgh Acads 90 Waysiders Drumpellier 8; Edinburgh Wanderers Cambuslang 3; Peebles 44 Haddington 3; Selkirk 38 East Kilbride 17

TENNENTS 1556 SHIELD: First round: Duns 16 Stirling County 60; Glasgow HK 19 Kirkcaldy 21; Glasgow Southern 50 Portobello FP 14; Gordonians 31 Hutchesons' Aloysian 13, Grangemouth 8 Glenrothes 9; Kelso 57 Trinity Acads 12; West of Scotland 87 Stewartry 12; Wigtownshire 32 Currie 56

INSURANCE CORPORATION LEAGUE: First division: one: Ballymena 30 Blackrock College 12; Old Belvedere 23 Instonians 20; Old Wesley 12 Shannon 24. Postponed: Garryowen v Young Munster, St Mary's College v Cork Constitution. Second division: Clontarf 27 Dolphin 24, Greystones 12 Old Crescent 12; NIFC 22 Terenure Coll 34, Sunday's Well 27 Dungannon 27. Postponed: Wanderers v Malone

CLUB MATCHES: High Wycombe 24 Worcester 11. Cancelled: Llanelli v Pontypridd

WILLIS CORRON TROPHY: Army 6 Royal Navy 9 (at Twickenham)

UNDER-18 INTERNATIONAL: England 7 Wales 7 (at Bridgwater)

CATHAY PACIFIC-HONG KONG BANK SEVENS TOURNAMENT: Group A: New Zealand 77 Japan 0; France 56 Sri Lanka 5, Japan 35 Sri Lanka 0; New Zealand 28 France 14. Group B: Argentina 57 Singapore 7; England 31 Scotland 12; Scotland 56 Singapore 0; England 24 Argentina 7. Group C: Western Samoa 49 Namibia 0; Ireland 43 Malaysia 5; Namibia 24 Malaysia 21; Western Samoa 14 Ireland 14. Group D: Australia 33 South Korea 7, Wales 52 Kwang-Hua 0; South Korea 35 Kwang-Hua Taipei 5, Australia 21 Wales 19. Group E: South Africa 38 United States 5; Canada 21 Papua New Guinea 5; United States 24 Papua New Guinea 21; South Africa 12 Canada 19. Group F: Fiji 49 Hong Kong 0; Tonga 56 Thailand 5; Hong Kong 54 Thailand 5; Fiji 40 Tonga 0. Bowl: Semi-finals: Namibia 29 Papua New Guinea 21; Japan 45 Malaysia 5. Final: Japan 55 Namibia 21. Plate: Quarter-finals: South Africa 28 Korea 12. Scotland 7 France 15, Tonga 12 Hong Kong 17; USA 12 Argentina 52. Semi-finals: South Africa 26 France 29 (aet); Hong Kong 26 Argentina 21 (aet). Final: France 45 Hong Kong 12. Cup: Quarter-finals: New Zealand 49 Ireland 0; England 27 Western Samoa 7; Australia 19 Canada 5; Fiji 28 Wales 12. Semi-finals: New Zealand 42 England 19; Fiji 24 Australia 7. Final: New Zealand 19 Fiji 17

WELLINGTON: Super-12 Tournament: Wellington 44 Otago 15.

Tauiwi, of New Zealand, is hauled down by Naivaluwaqa, of Fiji, in the final of the Hong Kong Sevens Tournament. New Zealand won 19-17. Photograph: Jason Reed.

RACING

AINTREE

Going: good, good to firm in places

1.35 (2m ch) 1, Arctic Kinsman (C Llewellyn, 13-2); 2, Time Won't Wait (9-1); 3, Uncle Ernie (7-1). Clay County 5-1 jt-fav. 10 ran. 4l, 6l. N Twiston-Davies. Tote: £7 80; £2 10, £2 10, £1.90. DF: £28.30. Trio: £142.00. CSF: £55.24. Tricast: £360 39

2.10 (2m 4f hdle) 1, Urubande (C Swan, 100-30); 2, Strong Promise (25-1); 3, Danoli (5-2 fav). 8 ran. Nk, 6l. A O'Brien (Ire). Tote: £3.90; £1 40, £3.90, £1 50. DF: £49 90. CSF: £58 04.

3.00 (4m 4f ch) See page 29

3.45 (2m 4f ch) 1, Rocket Run (Mr P Henley, 10-1); 2, Five To Seven (8-1); 3, Bertone (5-1). Cookree 7-2 fav (pu). 11 ran. 2l, 6l. Miss L Russell. Tote: £9.00; £2 50, £2.80, £2.10. DF: £42 10. Trio: £69 60. CSF: £83 11. Tricast: £417 54

4.20 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Stompin (Mr J Culloty, 8-1); 2, Clifton Beat (9-1). 3, Star Rage (100-30 fav). 4, Thornton Gate (16-1) 17 ran. 1¼l, ¾l. Miss H Knight. Tote: £8.90; £2.00, £2.80, £1 20, £4 70. DF: £37.00. Trio: £48 60. CSF: £79.35. Tricast: £274 84.

4.55 (2m 110yd flat) 1, Burn Out (L Aspell, 15-2); 2, Andanito (9-2), 3, Shallegamble (11-1). Ballad Minstrel 13-8 fav. 15 ran. 5l, 2½l. J Pearce. Tote: £8 80; £2 10, £2.30, £2.90. DF: £18.10. Trio: £98 60. CSF: £44 31

Jackpot: not won (pool of £84,553.17 carried forward to Exeter today).

Placepot: £232.00. Quadpot: £36.70.

BEVERLEY

2.00 1, *Bold Pursuit* (5-2 fav); 2, Never Time (16-1), 3, Bold Top (10-1). 12 ran.

2.35 1, Pine Ridge Lad (3-1 fav). 2, Rambo Waltzer (8-1); 3, Primo Lara (9-2). 16 ran. NR: Souperficial.

3.35 1, Enchanting Eve (3-1), 2, Full Traceability (9-2); 3, Small Risk (13-8 fav). 7 ran.

4.05 1, Carranita (4-1); 2, Plum First (50-1); 3, Venture Capitalist (5-1). Ya Malak 5-2 fav. 6 ran.

4.40 1, Eskimo Nel (11-4 jt-fav); 2, Anchorena (33-1); 3, Chilly Lad (14-1). 4, Noble Canonire (8-1). Able Choice 11-4 jt-fav. 18 ran. NR: Saltando

5.15 1, Tabriz (5-1); 2, Theatre Magic (8-1). 3, Kingdom Princess (9-1). Fly Fishing 11-4 fav. 10 ran

Placepot: £2,934.70. Quadpot: £312.80.

HEREFORD

1.20 1, Hoh Music (13-8 fav); 2, Valisky (11-4); 3, Jack The Td (3-1). 7 ran. NR: Another Monk

1.50 1, Its A Snip (5-1); 2, Titan Empress (13-2), 3, Admiral Villeneuve (11-1). Court Melody 10-11 fav. 9 ran

2.25 1, Friendly House (3-1); 2, Stately Home (6-4 fav); 3, Sheecky (9-2). 11 ran.

3.55 1, Familiar Friend (4-1), 2, Royal Irish (11-8 fav); 3, Cathgal (8-1). 8 ran

4.30 1, Akulite (9-1), 2, Aklymann (7-1); 3, Whitebonnet (9-4 fav). 10 ran.

5.05 1, Mt Rundle (13-8), 2, Indian Run (5-1). 3, Dormston Boyo (25-1). Poucher 10-11 fav. 4 ran

5.35 1, Be Brave (7-1). 2, Shepherds Rest (4-1). 3, Lawnswood Junior (5-1). Cassio's Boy, Corrin Hill 3-1 jt-fav. 7 ran.

Placepot: £25.40. Quadpot: £10.80.

WOLVERHAMPTON

7.00 1, Law Dancer (2-1 fav); 2, School Boy (7-2); 3, Houghton Venture (11-4). 5 ran.

7.30 1, Hannah's Usher (4-1). 2, Mustn't Grumble (5-2 fav); 3, Nordan Raider (7-2). 8 ran. NR: Bold Aristocrat.

8.00 1, Cuban Nights (7-2), 2, In The Money (6-1), 3, Hill Farm Katie (25-1). Slapy Dam 3-1 fav. 8 ran.

8.30 1, High Premium (11-2). 2, Ashgore (2-1 fav); 3, Everset (4-1). 8 ran. NR: Maple Bay.

9.00 1, Rennyholme (11-2); 2, Sound The Trumpet (16-1); 3, Primula Bairn (4-5 fav). 10 ran

9.30 1, Rajah (11-4 fav); 2, Bailwick (7-1); 3, Scathebury (7-1). 8 ran.

Placepot: £73.80. Quadpot: £29.00.

GUIDE TO THE AHEAD

TODAY

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7 30 unless stated
** denotes all-ticket match*

Bell's Scottish League
Celtic v Aberdeen (8.0)

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Premier division: Crawley v Dorchester.

ICIS LEAGUE: First division: Ruislip Manor v Whyteleafe. Third division: Tring v Clapton.

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Winsford v Chorley. League Cup: Semi-final, second leg: Hyde v Gainsborough.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Brighton v Millwall (2.0): Crystal Palace v Luton (at Dulwich Hamlet, 7.0)

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Newcastle v Sheffield Wednesday (at Gateshead FC, 7.0); Notts County v Leeds (7.0); Wolverhampton v Nottingham Forest (at Telford). Second division: Blackpool v Coventry (7.0); Manchester City v Aston Villa (at Witton Albion FC, 7.0); Port Vale v Hull (7.0)

SCHOOLS MATCHES: Welsh Shield: Semi-final: St Helens v Dyfed (at Pilkington, 2.0). Kent Cup: Final: Bexley v Medway (at Maidstone, 6.30). English Schools Durham Festival (2.0)

OTHER SPORT

RACING: Exeter (2.10); Kelso (2.0); Southwell (AW, 2.20).

SNOOKER: British Open (Plymouth Pavilions).

SPEEDWAY: Premier League: Reading v Peterborough (7.30); Wolverhampton v Belle Vue (7.30). Conference League: Stoke v Buxton (7.30)

SQUASH: Leekes British Open (Cardiff).

TOMORROW

FOOTBALL

UEFA CUP: Semi-finals, first leg: Slavia Prague v Bordeaux (tba), Bayern Munich v Barcelona (tba).

ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE LEAGUE: First division: Barnsley v Norwich (7 45); Birmingham v Portsmouth (7.45); Charlton v Leicester (7.45); Crystal Palace v Port Vale (7.45); Huddersfield v Reading (7 45). Ipswich v Derby (7.45); Oldham v Grimsby (7 45); Sheffield United v Southend (7.45); Tranmere v Millwall; Watford v Sunderland (7.45); West Bromwich v Luton (7.45). Second division: Brentford v Stockport (7.45); Bristol Rovers v Bradford; Burnley v Bournemouth; Carlisle v Crewe (7 45); Chesterfield v Blackpool; Hull v Bristol City; Oxford United v Wrexham (7 45); Rotherham v Notts County; Swansea v Peterborough, Walsall v Wycombe (7.45); York v Shrewsbury. Third division: Barnet v Cardiff (7 45); Bury v Fulham; Cambridge United v Northampton (7.45); Chester v Leyton Orient, Colchester v Rochdale (7 45); Gillingham v Darlington (7.45); Hereford v Doncaster, Lincoln v Scarborough (7 45), Plymouth v Mansfield (7.45); Preston v Torquay; Scunthorpe v Hartlepool; Wigan v Exeter (7 45).

VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Northwich v Gateshead (7 45). Telford v Hednesford (7.45).

RUGBY UNION

HART GILMORE FOUR COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIP: Final: Birmingham v Worcester and Hereford (at Moseley, 7 30).

OTHER SPORT

BADMINTON: English national championships (Norwich Sport Village).

RACING: Folkestone (2.10); Nottingham (2.0); Wolverhampton (AW, 2.20).

SNOOKER: British Open (Plymouth Pavilions)

SQUASH: Leekes British Open (Cardiff).

WEDNESDAY

FOOTBALL

EUROPEAN CUP: Semi-finals, first leg: Ajax v Panathinaikos (tba); Juventus v Nantes (tba).

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Leeds v Southampton (7.45); Liverpool v Newcastle (8.0)

ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE LEAGUE: First division: Stoke v Wolverhampton (7 45). Second division: Swindon v Brighton (7.45).

VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Bath v Slough (7 45).

SPALDING CUP: Semi-final, second leg: Macclesfield v Southport (7 45)

RUGBY UNION

HEINEKEN LEAGUE: First division: Abertillery v Llanelli (7 0); Neath v Aberavon (7 0)

CLUB MATCH: Cwmbran v Pontypool (7.0).

OTHER SPORT

BADMINTON: English national championships (Norwich Sport Village).

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: London v Hemel (8.0); Sheffield v Doncaster (8.0). Thames Valley v Derby (8.0).

RACING: Ascot (1.55); Hamilton Park (2.25), Ludlow (2.15).

SNOOKER: British Open (Plymouth Pavilions).

SPEEDWAY: Premier League: Long Eaton v Belle Vue (7.30). Yorkshire Trophy, second leg: Hull v Bradford (7.30).

SQUASH: Leekes British Open (Cardiff).

THURSDAY

FOOTBALL

EUROPEAN CUP WINNERS' CUP: Semi-finals, first leg: Deportivo Coruña v Paris Saint Germain (tba), Feyenoord v Rapid Vienna (tba).

SPALDING CHALLENGE CUP: Semi-final, second leg: Kettering v Bromsgrove (7.45).

RUGBY UNION

EUROPEAN CUP: Play-off match: Glasgow District v North and Midlands (at Meggetland, 7.0).

RUGBY LEAGUE

STONES SUPER LEAGUE: London v Paris (7 05)

OTHER SPORT

BADMINTON: English national championships (Norwich Sport Village).

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Newcastle v Manchester (8.0).

RACING: Lingfield Park (mixed, 2 0); Leicester (2 10); Musselburgh (2.20)

SNOOKER: British Open (Plymouth Pavilions).

SPEEDWAY: Premier League: London v Ipswich; (7.30) Middlesbrough v Sheffield (7 30)

SQUASH: Leekes British Open (Cardiff).

FRIDAY

FOOTBALL

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Middlesbrough v Sheffield Wednesday (5.45).

ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE LEAGUE: First division: Charlton v Luton (2.15)

RUGBY UNION

CLUB MATCH: Camborne v St Ives (3.0). Redruth v St Mary's Hospital (3.0).

RUGBY LEAGUE

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

STONES SUPER LEAGUE: Castleford v Leeds (7.30); Oldham v Halifax; Sheffield v Bradford (7 30); St Helens v Wigan (3 30); Warrington v Workington. First division: Dewsbury v Batley; Rochdale v Keighley (7.30); Salford v Widnes, Wakefield v Featherstone (7.30); Whitehaven v Huddersfield (3 30). Second division: Barrow v Carlisle (7.30); Chorley v Doncaster; Hunslet v Bramley (7 30); Leigh v Swinton, Prescot v South Wales (7.30); York v Hull K R (3.15)

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Leopards v Birmingham (8 0).

SNOOKER: British Open (Plymouth Pavilions).

SPEEDWAY: European Cup. Cradley Heath and Stoke v Rospiggarna (Swe) (7 30). Premier League: Belle Vue v Long Eaton (7.30); Ipswich v London (2.30); Oxford v Peterborough, (12.30); Peterborough v Oxford; Sheffield v Middlesbrough (7.30). Easter Trophy, first leg: Poole v Exeter (3 30)

SQUASH: Leekes British Open (Cardiff)

SATURDAY

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Arsenal v Leeds; Chelsea v Aston Villa. Coventry v Liverpool; Everton v Bolton; Manchester City v Manchester United; Newcastle v Queens Park Rangers; Nottingham Forest v Tottenham; Southampton v Blackburn, West Ham v Wimbledon

ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE LEAGUE: First division: Barnsley v Sunderland, Birmingham v Port Vale; Crystal Palace v Leicester, Huddersfield v Southend; Ipswich v Reading; Oldham v Derby; Sheffield United v Wolverhampton, Stoke v Grimsby; Tranmere v Norwich; Watford v Portsmouth, West Bromwich v Millwall. Second division: Brentford v Crewe; Bristol Rovers v Brighton; Burnley v Bradford, Carlisle v Bournemouth; Chesterfield v Stockport, Hull v Wycombe; Oxford United v Blackpool; Rotherham v Shrewsbury; Swansea v Wrexham; Swindon v Notts County; Walsall v Bristol City; York v Peterborough. Third division; Barnet v Northampton; Bury v Mansfield; Cambridge United v Rochdale; Chester v Scarborough, Colchester v Cardiff; Gillingham v Hartlepool; Hereford v Fulham; Lincoln v Exeter; Plymouth v Darlington; Preston v Doncaster; Scunthorpe v Torquay; Wigan v Leyton Orient.

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Celtic v Kilmarnock, Falkirk v Raith; Hearts v Rangers. Motherwell v Hibernian, Partick v Aberdeen. First division: Airdrie v St Johnstone; Dundee United v Dumbarton; Dunfermline v Hamilton; Greenock Morton v Clydebank; St Mirren v Dundee. Second division: Ayr v Queen Of South; East Fife v Berwick, Montrose v Stenhousemuir; Stirling v Forfar; Stranraer v Clyde. Third division: Albion v Brechin; Alloa v Queen's Park; Arbroath v Cowdenbeath; Caley This v East Stirling. Livingston v Ross County

VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Bromsgrove v Southport; Dagenham and Red v Kettering; Dover v Northwich; Farnborough v Gateshead; Halifax v Telford, Hednesford v Altrincham; Morecambe v Stevenage. Stalybridge v Bath; Welling v Runcorn; Woking v Macclesfield

TENNENTS SCOTTISH CUP: Semi-final: Aberdeen v Hearts (at Hampden Park, 3 0)

RUGBY UNION

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: Cardiff v Barbarians (2 30)

COURAGE CLUBS CHAMPIONSHIP: First division: Bath v Harlequins; Gloucester v Bristol; Leicester v Wasps; Sale v Saracens; West Hartlepool v Orrell. Second division: London Irish v Bedford; London Scottish v Blackheath, Moseley v Wakefield. Northampton v Newcastle; Waterloo v Nottingham. Third division: Coventry v Harrogate; Fylde v Rugby; Morley v Richmond, Reading v Otley; Rotherham v Rosslyn Park. Fourth division: Clifton v Plymouth, Exeter v Liverpool St Helens, Leeds v Redruth, London Welsh v Havant; Walsall v Aspatria.

HEINEKEN LEAGUE: First division: Abertillery v Neath (2.30); Bridgend v Llanelli (2.30); Newbridge v Ebbw Vale (2.30); Newport v Treorchy (2.30); Pontypridd v Swansea (2 30). Second division: Caerphilly v Maesteg (2.30); Dunvant v Abercynon (2.30); Llandovery v Ystradgynlais (2.30), Pontypool v Cross Keys (2 30), South Wales Police v Llanharan (2.30): Tenby United v Bonymaen (2.30)

INSURANCE CORPORATION LEAGUE: First division: Blackrock College v Old Wesley (2 30). Cork Constitution v Ballymena (2.30); Lansdowne v Garryowen (2.30), Shannon v Old Belvedere (2 30): Young Munster v St Mary's College (2 30). Second division: Bective Rangers v Sunday's Well (2 30): Dolphin v NIFC (2 30): Dungannon v Wanderers (2.30); Malone v Greystones (2 30): Old Crescent v Clontarf (2 30)

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Leicester v Derby (7.30), Manchester v Chester (7.30), Hemel v Sheffield (7.30), Thames Valley v London (8.0)

RACING: Haydock Park (1 30), Kempton Park (1 45), Carlisle (2 05); Newton Abbot (1 40); Plumpton (2 25), Towcester (2.20)

MOTOR CYCLING: British Superbike championship (Thruxton).

SNOOKER: British Open (Plymouth Pavilions)

ROWING: University boat race (Putney to Mortlake, 3 30)

SPEEDWAY: Premiership, first leg: Bradford v Eastbourne (7 30). Premier League: Swindon v Coventry (7 30)

SQUASH: Leekes British Open (Cardiff)

TABLE TENNIS: English Open (Kettering Arena)

SUNDAY

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

TENNENTS SCOTTISH CUP: Semi-final: Celtic v Rangers (at Hampden Park, 4 0)

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Chester v Thames Valley (5.0), Doncaster v Birmingham (5.30); London v Manchester (5.0); Newcastle v Leopards (5 30). Sheffield v Worthing (5 45)

SNOOKER: British Open (Plymouth Pavilions)

SPEEDWAY: Premiership, second leg: Eastbourne v Bradford (3 30). British under-21 championship (qualifying rounds): Linlithgow (3 0); Sittingbourne (1 0)

SQUASH: Leekes British Open (Cardiff)

TABLE TENNIS: English Open (Kettering Arena)

THE TIMES

SPORTS SERVICE

RACING

Commentary

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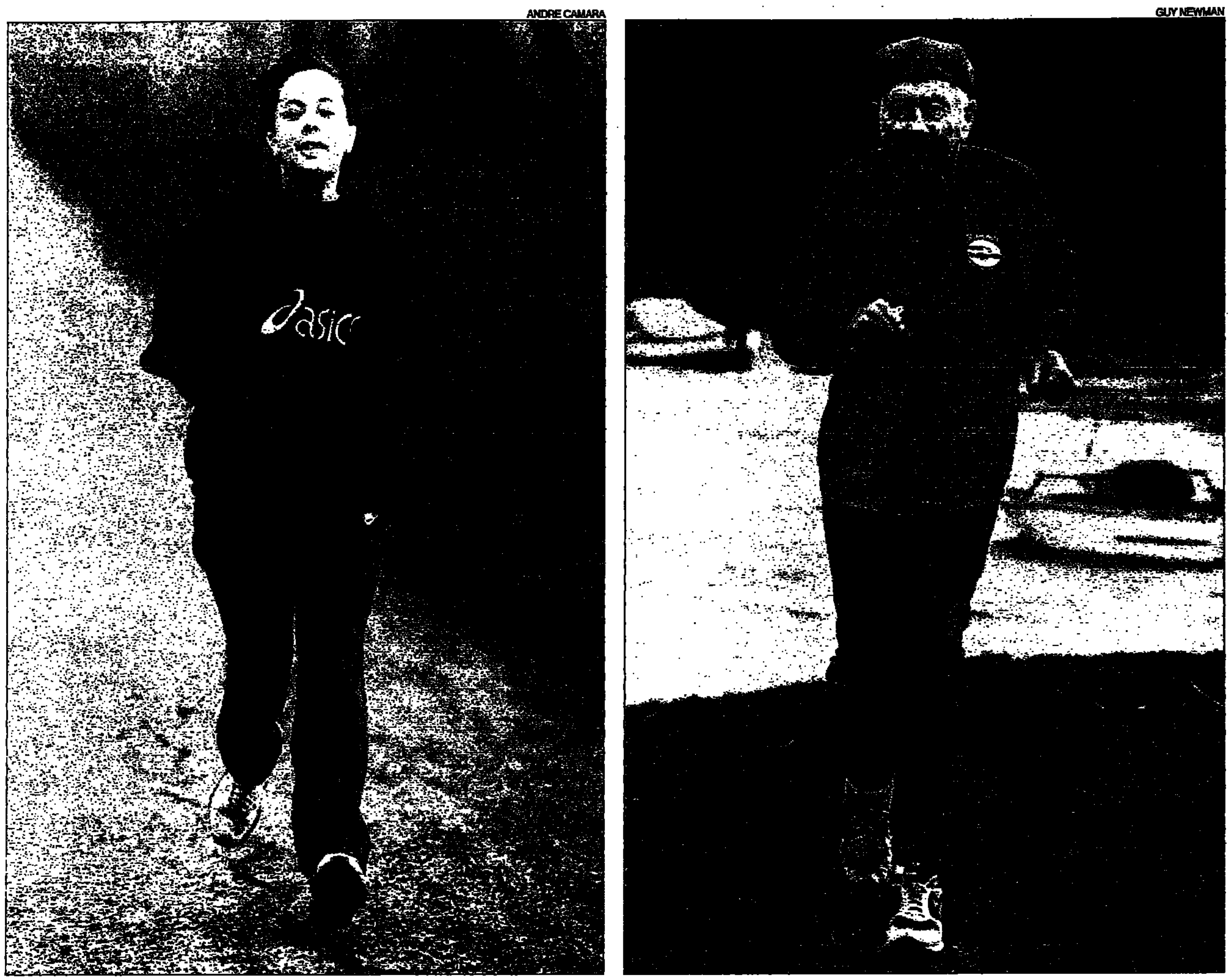
John Goodbody meets two competitors who cannot wait to get started

ANDRE CAMARA GUY NEWMAN



Only 26 miles 385 yards to go: Rosie Kennedy, the youngest girl runner, pounds across Hampstead Heath, while Walter Cayless, at 84, is training "quietly and peacefully"

SPORT FOR ALL

When age is no barrier

The overwhelming popularity of the Flora London Marathon is because it is the race of the people. It attracts competitors of both sexes, and of all shapes and ages.

The elite may be surging along at the front of the field, but, at the back, the less athletic are getting equal satisfaction. Men or women, fat or thin, able-bodied or in wheelchairs, the target remains the same: completing the 26 miles 385 yards.

Age is no barrier to the determined, whether it is Rosie Kennedy, the youngest woman in the race this year, who will be 18 years and 20 days old on race day, or Walter Cayless, the oldest male competitor at almost 84. The glory of the race on April 21 is that it encompasses adulthood.

Cayless, a retired hotelier from Newton Abbot, in Devon, will be competing in his fourth successive London Marathon. Last year, he lost his clothes. After finishing in seven hours 16 minutes, he arrived at the Novotel, in Hammersmith, only to find that the coach home had already left.

However, the hotel so admired his feat that he was introduced to everyone in the dining-room at dinner, given a room for the night and a "marvellous breakfast" and then a car back to the West Country. The marathon excites that sort of generosity.

Cayless still plays football occasionally. He manages and makes the tea for Coombe Casuals. "I am the substitute when they are a man short," he said.

FLORA LONDON MARATHON 1996

After a breakfast of cornflakes and orange juice, he runs every morning along the River Teign and also goes to keep fit classes. It is a routine that would exhaust many a younger man.

The hills during his run can pose problems, but he remembers to swing from the hips. "If any lady wants to acquire better legs, they should learn to walk from the hips," he said. His longest run this year in preparation for the race will be 15 miles, which he is doing "quietly and peacefully".

His life has not always been so peaceful. As a member of the West Kent regiment, he escaped from Dunkirk in 1940 bailing water from a rowing boat with his tin hat. He fought at El Alamein and in Greece.

He continued working until he was nearly 80 and ran his first marathon only three years ago. "I am getting old, unfortunately," he said. "The most important thing is that I have survived the race in the past and I'm going to do it again this year."

He will represent Torquay United in the football club's challenge competition during the race. Cayless said: "My great compensation is that, if I ever collapsed in the race, I would not be here to have my keep fit class telling me: 'We told you so'."

For Rosie Kennedy, the marathon is a challenge that she has been looking forward to for most of her life. Ever since she saw Terry, her father, complete the race in 1982, she has been consumed by a desire to take part. "When I was young, I would see the race and then try to run the 26 miles round our back garden," she said.

She has had to wait until her 18th birthday, the youngest age at which runners are permitted to take part, before she has been able to compete.

She said: "The event is like a big carnival. It looks such fun and my father and I have always wanted to do it together." However, she admits that she has not found the training much of a carnival. "It is a bit different long-distance running, compared to sprinting for a bus," she said. "When I started, I could not believe how unfit I was."

At Parliament Hill School, in north London, where she is taking three A levels, she has never been particularly interested in athletics, sport or even PE. However, accompanied by her father, now 63, she has been pounding across Hampstead Heath — the undulating open spaces, beloved by generations of cross-country runners, begin at the end of her road. The headquarters of Highgate Harriers, where her father is a member, is barely a minute's jog away from their home.

"The short runs are often the worst," she said. "The longer runs give me a chance to settle down."

They run, father and daughter, across the heath, although he never tries to persuade her to go out for a session. "You cannot impose your discipline on someone else," Terry Kennnedy said. Instead, he tells his daughter when he is running and leaves it to her whether she joins him. Usually, she does.

He said: "I play golf with my son and run with my daughter. It is a real bonding. Not many fathers have the chance to do that." He particularly enjoys it when he cannot keep up with his fleet daughter, although usually they run together.

After ten marathons, he had been planning not to enter again this year, but the presence of his daughter has revived his interest. "When we do a 15-miler together at weekends, she has sometimes been partying until 3am the previous night," he said. "I had not realised her tremendous grit and determination until she started training for the event. She will do it all right."

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, bridge correspondent

This is a hand from the 1996 BBL Premier League match, between Sowter and Niblett.

Dealer North **North-South game** **IMP's**

♠J
♥A J 10
♦Q J 10 9 7 4
♣A Q 5

♠K 9 6 4 3
♥K 5 4
♦5
♣J 7 3 2

N
W E
S

♠A 8 2
♥8 2
♦K 8 3 2
♣9 8 6 4

♠Q 10 7 5
♥Q 9 7 6 3
♦A 6
♣K 10

Contract: 3 NT by South **Lead: four of spades**

North opened One Diamond and rebid Three Diamonds over South's One Heart response. Now, South had to rebid 3 NT and the best contract of Four Hearts was missed. As East, I took the first trick with the ace of spades and returned the eight to the ten and three. How should declarer play?

It looks as though the spades are five with West and three with East — if the lead is fourth best, declarer can tell from the Rule of Eleven that West must have the remaining high spades. So, the problem is to keep East out of the lead.

The correct line is to discard a diamond from dummy, and play king and another club. Then, lead the queen of diamonds. If the king appears on either the first or second round of the suit, declarer will make at least four diamond tricks, three clubs and one heart and one spade.

Note the importance of playing off two rounds of clubs — if West wins the first round of diamonds and switches to a heart, declarer rises with the ace and discards the blocking ace of diamonds on the third club. If the declarer collects two diamond tricks without the king appearing, he then switches to the queen of hearts and makes the contract if West has that king.

At our table, declarer discarded a heart from dummy at trick two, and then played the ten of clubs to the queen, thus blocking the club suit. However, I came to his rescue when he led the queen of diamonds — I rose with the king, in effect playing Senior for the ace of diamonds and spades only as good as 10 9 6 4 3.

It might have been right, but it has a sniff of the unlucky expert about it. My idea was to clear spades while preserving Senior's supposed diamond entry.

☐ For details of *The Times* Midland Private Banking National Bridge challenge, contact the event organisers on 0181-942 9506 or write to: Britannic Building, Beverley Way, New Malden, Surrey, KT3 4PH.

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene
chess correspondent

Enterprising play

The concurrent tournaments in Amsterdam and New York continue to produce enterprising sacrificial games. In particular, the game between Lautier and Gelfand from the sixth round in Amsterdam stood out as a game where both sides offered queen sacrifices.

White: Joel Lautier
Black: Boris Gelfand
Amsterdam, March 1996

Semi-Slav Defence

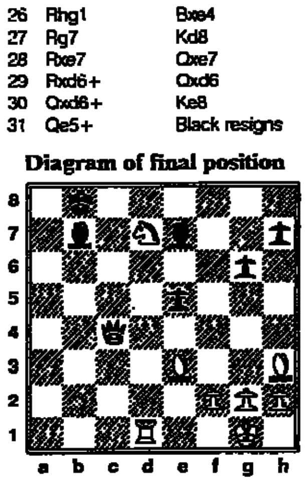
1	d4	d5
2	c4	c6
3	Nf3	Nf6
4	Nc3	e6
5	e3	Nbd7
6	Bd3	dxc4
7	Bxc4	b5
8	Bd3	Bb7
9	0-0	a6
10	e4	c5
11	d5	c4
12	Bc2	Qc7
13	dxe6	fxe6
14	Nd4	Nc5
15	Be3	0-0-0
16	Qe2	e5
17	Nf3	Ncxe4
18	Nxe4	Nxe4
19	a4	Nc5
20	axb5	axb5
21	b3	cxb3
22	Bf5+	Kb8
23	Qxb5	g6
24	Bh3	Rd5
25	Rfb1	Qc6
26	Qc4	Be7
27	Nd2	Rhd8
28	Nxb3	Qa4
29	Nxc5	Rd1+
30	Rxd1	Rxd1+
31	Rxd1	Qxc4
32	Nd7+	Black resigns

White: Michael Adams
Black: Grigory Serper
New York, March 1996

Sicilian Defence

1	e4	c5
2	Nf3	d6
3	d4	cxd4
4	Nxd4	Nf6
5	Nc3	Nc6
6	Bg5	e6
7	Qd2	a6
8	0-0-0	h6
9	Be3	Be7
10	f4	Nxd4
11	Bxd4	b5
12	Qe3	Bb7
13	Bxf6	gxf6
14	Bd3	Qa5
15	Kb1	b4
16	Ne2	Qc5
17	Nd4	h5
18	Qe2	a5
19	Bb5+	Kf8
20	Bc4	Qb6
21	g4	hxg4
22	Qxg4	f5
23	Nxe6+	fxe6
24	Qg6	Qc7
25	Qxe6	Ke8
26	Rhg1	Bxe4
27	Rg7	Kd8
28	Rxe7	Qxe7
29	Rxd6+	Qxd6
30	Qxd6+	Ke8
31	Qe5+	Black resigns

Diagram of final position



In Amsterdam, Kasparov and Kramnik lead with four out of six; in New York, Michael Adams, of Great Britain, leads with 5½ out of seven.

☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

CARRIWITCHET
a. A small broomstick
b. A quip
c. Instrusive coarse grass

COLOQUINTIDA
a. The Death's Head moth
b. A cathartic drug
c. Pidgin Spanish

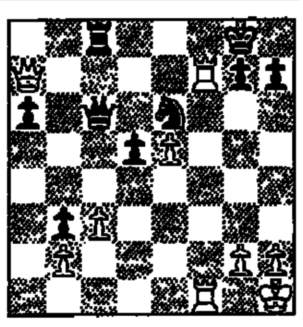
CETE
a. A malign cyst
b. An assembly of badgers
c. A printer's forme

JONGLEUR
a. An itinerant minstrel
b. A bell-ringer
c. A French hare-hound

Answers on page 36

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene



White to play. This week, I continue my homage to Alexander Alekhine, who died 50 years ago. This position is from the game Alekhine — Bernstein, Vilna, 1911. White has lined up his major pieces in threatening fashion along the f-file and seventh rank. How did he now score a quick knockout?

Solution on page 36

THE GREATEST CHANNEL FOUR TELEVISION THE TIMES

TUNE IN AND CHOOSE BRITAIN'S GREATEST SPORTS STAR

Tonight, Channel 4's *The Greatest* gives you the third chance in the series to vote for the Greatest British sporting hero of them all. And your vote will count in more ways than one, because it could win you a pair of tickets to the European football championship or even the top prize of a trip to the Olympic Games in Atlanta with Daley Thompson.

The main aim of the series is to bring some degree of scientific method to the comparisons so that a motor racing driver can be judged against a cricketer, a jockey against a footballer. You probably won't be able to put aside your prejudices completely - we all have our heroes, and our favourite sports - but *The Greatest* will open your mind to achievements and personalities you may not otherwise have considered worthy of greatness.

Tonight is the fourth show in the 12-part series. The 20 sportsmen and women have been shortlisted and the cases for Jackie Stewart, Linford Christie, Bobby Moore and Torvill and Dean have been stated. Each week two contenders are examined and their relative merits discussed by the panel of Frances Edmonds, author and broadcaster, Danny Kelly, editor of *Total Sport*, and a guest celebrity (tonight it is Rory Bremner). Chairing the debate is Gordon Kennedy. The final show will give the results and declare The Greatest. *The Greatest* is screened on Channel 4 on Mondays at 8.30pm and repeated on Saturdays at 10am. The sporting stars under examination tonight are Mary Rand and Ian Botham. *Times* writers give their appreciations to help your judgments.

TONIGHT'S CONTENDERS

MARY RAND

The zenith of athletic success is to win an Olympic gold medal by breaking a world record. Mary Rand achieved that in Tokyo in 1964, when her victory in the long jump made her the first British female athlete to take an Olympic title. Rand's eminence in British sport came not only from her ability in the long jump. She was a superb all-rounder, who finished second in the pentathlon in those Olympics, beaten only by Irina Press, the Soviet competitor, who two years later "retired" from the sport when sex tests were introduced at the European championships. In 1964, Rand could have qualified for six different events at the Games. Her all-round ability is further shown by the fact that she was first selected internationally in the high jump and was fourth in the 80m hurdles Olympic final in 1960.

However, she took part in an era when female athletics was relatively undeveloped, with most countries only giving support, encouragement and competition to men. Rand was a pioneer, someone who proved that you could combine femininity with athletic excellence and did it with great charisma. She was the greatest of the "Golden Girls".

She also had the determination to overcome her disappointment of losing the 1960 Olympic long jump title and the birth of her daughter, Allison, in 1962 to produce her gold medal performance in 1964. Nor was it a fluke of one perfect jump. Four of her six efforts were her best ever.

IAN BOTHAM

It is easy to pick holes in Ian Botham's cricket career. It is true he rarely got into line against the fastest bowlers, took heaps of wickets with "bad" balls, that he was an indifferent captain. It is true he often neglected to practise and his record against West Indies was modest (whose is not?). But judge him by what matters in sport, which is winning matches and entertaining the public, and he is hard to beat. He helped Somerset to capture the first trophies in their history (five in all) and England to win 33 Test matches and reach two World Cup finals. He played in four winning series against Australia, against whom he scored 1,673 runs and took 148 wickets. He virtually single-handedly retained the Ashes for his country in 1981 with breathtaking centuries at Headingley and Old Trafford and a spell of five wickets in 28 balls at Edgbaston when all looked lost, capturing the imagination of the public as few British sportsmen have matched. Four years later he hit a record 80 sixes in a season.

After 1986 his body increasingly felt the strain of his extraordinary endeavours but he retained his zest for the game. His age was recognisably golden even before it was over and time has only reinforced the impression. Without him, England have forgotten how to win and there is no more eloquent testimony to Botham's "magic" than that he is popularly seen as the likeliest man to restore the winning spirit to their dressing-room.

WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO

You will be asked to score each sports personality in each of five categories. Each category carries a maximum of 20 points, so the total scores you give are out of a maximum of 100. The categories are:

Achievement - for honours won and overall record

Dominance - for quality of opposition, longevity and domination of peers

Style - for performance, technique, sportsmanship and image

Fortitude - for coping with pressure, will to win, self control and sporting intelligence

Impact - charisma and transcendence

THE PRIZES

Carlsberg EURO 96 OFFICIAL BEER England

Each week, Channel 4 and *The Times* will each be giving away a pair of tickets to the European football championship, courtesy of Carlsberg, the official beer of Euro 96, to the person who manages to match the average scores for both of that week's profiled sports personalities. In the event of a tie, a draw will take place. Ten runners up will each win a signed copy of Daley Thompson's book accompanying the series, *The Greatest* (Boxtree, £14.99).

At the end of the series, all the weekly winners will have the chance to win the greatest prize of all - a trip to the Olympics with Daley Thompson.

HOW TO REGISTER YOUR VOTE

By telephone: You can call *The Greatest* phoneline, on

0891 66 55 44

Lines are open from 9pm until midnight tomorrow and from 10am on Saturday, when the show is repeated, until midnight on Sunday. Calls cost 39p cheap rate, 49p at other times.

By post: complete *The Times* entry form and send it to *The Greatest* Week 3, PO Box 1413, London N1 8HY to arrive by noon on Friday.

	Achievement	Dominance	Style	Fortitude	Impact	TOTAL
MARY RAND	☐☐ pts	☐☐ pts	☐☐ pts	☐☐ pts	☐☐ pts	☐☐ pts
IAN BOTHAM	☐☐ pts	☐☐ pts	☐☐ pts	☐☐ pts	☐☐ pts	☐☐ pts

Name ....

Address ....

....

....

Daytime telephone ....

Proof of posting is not proof of receipt. Usual Times competition rules apply.

☐ Tick if you prefer not to receive further information from Channel 4 or The Times

هكذا من الأصل

Discovery discouraged on appeal

Regina v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Gardian and Another

Before Lord Justice Russell, Lord Justice McCowan and Lord Justice Auld

[Judgment March 14]

Save in exceptional cases, an appellant in judicial review proceedings was not entitled to discovery of material which was not before the court below unless there was new evidence that could not have been made available at first instance by reasonable diligence.

The Court of Appeal so held dismissing an application for discovery of ministerial briefing papers on appeal by Robert and Beata Gardian against the dismissal by Mr Justice Harrison on May 4, 1995 of their application for judicial review of the Home Secretary's refusal to grant them indefinite leave to remain in the United Kingdom outside the Statement of Changes in Immigration Rules (1989, HC 388).

Mr Ian MacDonald, QC and Mr Robin Spencer for the applicants; Mr Neil Garnham for the secretary of state.

LORD JUSTICE AULD said the applicants were Polish nationals in their late twenties who had come to the UK in August 1989 to see Mrs Gardian's grandfather who had fought for the British Army in World War II. The grandfather had suffered a stroke in October 1989 and the applicants had remained with him to look after him.

In August 1990 their application for indefinite leave to remain was refused, but they were granted exceptional leave to remain to look after the grandfather, who died in December 1990.

Following the birth of a son to Mrs Gardian in June 1991, the couple had again applied for indefinite leave. The application had been refused, but on appeal, an adjudicator had recommended that the secretary of state exercise his discretion in their favour outside the rules. However, the parliamentary under-secretary of state had decided in April 1993 that he was not satisfied the circumstances justified granting exceptional leave to remain.

The couple them applied for judicial review, and withdrew the application when the Home Office indicated it would reconsider their case. Two immigration officers had made an unannounced visit to the couple's home and both urged the minister to exercise discretion in the couple's favour.

The case was reviewed by the Minister of State, Mr Charles Wardle, who concluded that to do so would undermine the government's general policy on immigration which, inter alia, was to restrict severely the numbers coming to live permanently or work in the UK. When he conducted his review, the minister had before him a summary prepared by civil servants, but not the written minute of the two immigration officers' recommendations.

In June 1994 the Gardians again sought judicial review. At a preliminary hearing before Mr Justice Laws they unsuccessfully sought discovery of the briefing papers that had been before the minister. Mr Justice Harrison dismissed the application for judicial review, describing the failure to put the officers' minute before the minister as regrettable but not unfair.

On appeal, Mr MacDonald had again applied for discovery of the briefing papers, saying that without them the Gardians could not effectively challenge the decision of Mr Justice Harrison.

It was an abuse of the process of the Court of Appeal to seek to use an appeal as a means of re-trying an application on different and possibly better evidence: *R v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Momin Ali* ([1984] 1 WLR 663, 670) per Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls.

The court's function was limited to deciding whether the decision of the court below was right on the evidence available to it, unless there was new evidence that could not have been made available then by reasonable diligence or there were some other exceptional circumstances to justify its admission on appeal.

Their Lordships refused the discovery application because the Gardians by exercise of reasonable diligence could have sought the material on discovery by appealing Mr Justice Laws' decision to the Court of Appeal or by making an application for it to Mr Justice Harrison. They had done neither and their reason for now doing so, namely to challenge Mr Justice Harrison's reasoning on the facts before him, was, in their Lordships' view insufficient in the circumstances to justify admission.

The material sought was not, as a matter of principle, discoverable save in the most exceptional circumstances. The Gardians were not entitled to see the material before the minister because they did not know whether it was adequate for his decision, unless there was something to suggest that it was not.

Nor were they entitled, in the absence of a prima facie case for suggesting that the affidavit evidence adduced by the secretary of state was wrong, to seek discovery to go behind it as to the adequacy of that material.

There was no proper basis for the suggestion that the minister's decision was unfair because of what he did not see. The minister's decision was not unreasonable and the appeal would be dismissed.

Lord Justice McCowan and Lord Justice Russell agreed.

Solicitors: Gamlins Storrar Cowdry, Conwy; Treasury Solicitor.

Residence kept in temporary move

Camden London Borough Council v Goldenberg and Another

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice McCowan and Lord Justice Thorpe

[Judgment March 14]

A temporary move to other accommodation together with a conditional intention to cease living with his grandmother, the secure tenant of a council flat, did not cause the grandson's residence in that flat to cease. He was entitled to succeed his grandmother as a secure tenant of the premises under sections 87 and 91(3)(c) of the Housing Act 1985.

The Court of Appeal so held in reserved judgments (Lord Justice McCowan dissenting) allowing an appeal by the second defendant, Mr Adam Bloom, the grandson of the first defendant, Mrs Dorothy Goldenberg, from Judge Zucker, QC, who, in Central London County Court in November 1994, had held in favour of the landlord, Camden London Borough Council, that Mr Bloom was a person to whom the tenancy of 9 Nalton House, Kilburn, could not be validly assigned.

Section 87 of the 1985 Act provides: "A person is qualified to succeed the tenant under a secure tenancy if he occupies the dwelling house as his only or principal home at the time of the tenant's [removal] and either — (a) he is the tenant's spouse, or (b) he is another member of the tenant's family and has resided with the tenant throughout the period of twelve months ending with the tenant's [removal]..."

Miss Geraldine More O'Ferrall for Mr Bloom; Mr Christopher Walker for the council; Mrs Goldenberg did not appear and was not represented.

LORD JUSTICE THORPE said that Mr Bloom, returning from Israel in 1991, went to live with his grandmother, the secure tenant of the one-bedroomed flat. In February 1992 he married and left the flat, going with his wife to "house sit" for friends who were abroad. It was their intention to move to other independent accommodation if it could be found.

But no opportunity arose and when the friends returned in April 1992 Mr Bloom went back to his grandmother's flat, his wife, a student, having to go elsewhere. In November 1992 the grandmother moved into a nursing home, assigning her tenancy of the flat to Mr Bloom.

The question was whether Mr Bloom had resided with his grandmother throughout the period of twelve months ending in November 1992. Miss More O'Ferrall argued that the judge was wrong to hold that he had not, having failed to consider the important issues of whether Mr Bloom had remained in occupation of the flat despite his absence on what he described as a pseudo-honeymoon and also whether he had had the intention to return to the flat.

The combination of the "house sit", it was said, together with the intention to move to other accommodation if it could be found were insufficient to interrupt Mr Bloom's residence with his grandmother.

A period of absence did not necessarily break continuity of residence. In determining whether or not the departure had that consequence, regard had to be had to (a) the nature and extent of the continuing connection with the premises throughout the period of absence, and (b) the quality of the intention to return: see *Crawley Borough Council v Sawyer* ((1987) 86 LGR 629) and *Brickfield Ltd v Hughes* ((1987) 20 HLR 108).

Nalton House remained throughout Mr Bloom's postal address and the majority of his possessions were left behind there. He had intended to return unless something better turned up before his friends returned from abroad.

But what was the prospect of carrying out that intention? Was it expectation or mere hope?

The reality was that it was a distant prospect sufficient only to qualify and not to displace the intention to return. It had to be characterised as an intention to return unless something unexpected turned up. Such a qualification of the intention to return did not justify the conclusion to which the judge came.

LORD JUSTICE McCOWAN, dissenting, said that Mr Bloom's intention to return to Nalton House could be characterised as an intention not to return if he succeeded in finding accommodation where he and his wife could live together.

The judge had held that Mr Bloom had failed to discharge the burden of proving that he was residing with his grandmother at the relevant time. That decision could not properly be interfered with.

Moreover, the facts supported the judge's conclusion that there had been a break in the continuity of Mr Bloom's residence with his grandmother.

Lord Justice Nourse gave a judgment concurring with Lord Justice Thorpe.

Solicitors: Fisher Meredith, Clapham; Miss Amanda Kelly, Camden.

Protecting rights of creditors

March Estates plc v Gunmark Ltd

Before Mr Justice Lightman

[Judgment March 14]

Although legislation had created procedures designed to protect corporate debtors from creditors, for example, administration or disclaimer, those were not intended, by a side wind, to affect such creditors' rights against third parties who were liable to them for the same debt.

Mr Justice Lightman so held in the Chancery Division, in entering summary judgment for an account followed by payment of arrears of rent in favour of the plaintiff landlord, March Estates plc, against the defendant Gunmark Ltd, which had with licence from March assigned the residue of its term of 25 years granted in 1977 to Eldair Engineering Ltd, a company which had by June 27, 1995 become insolvent, owing £19,316 arrears of rent, and whose directors had presented a petition for an administration order under Part I of the Insolvency Act 1986.

Section 1 of the 1986 Act provides: "(1) The directors of a company... may make a proposal ... to the company and to its creditors for a composition in satisfaction of its debts or a scheme of arrangement of its affairs [... referred to, in either case, as a 'voluntary arrangement')."

Section 5 provides: "(2) The approved voluntary arrangement — (a) takes effect as if made by the company at the creditors' meeting, and (b) binds every person who in accordance with the rules had notice of, and was entitled to vote at, that meeting (whether or not he was present or represented at that meeting) as if he were a party to the voluntary arrangement."

Section 4 provides: "(3) A meeting ... shall not approve any proposal... which affects the right of a secured creditor of the company to enforce his security, except with the concurrence of the creditor concerned."

Section 6 provides: "(1) ... an application to the court may be made, by [a person entitled, in accordance with the rules, to vote at a creditors' meeting] on ... the ... ground ... — (a) that a voluntary arrangement ... unfairly prejudices the interest of a *creditor*..."

Miss Helen Galley for March; Mr Thomas Grant for Gunmark

MR JUSTICE LIGHTMAN said that after the directors' petition there had been a creditors' meeting, which had resolved upon "a scheme of arrangement" in the form of a moratorium, as distinct from "a composition in satisfaction of [the company's] debts".

As shown by *Hindcastle Ltd v Barbara Attenborough Associates Ltd* ([1996] 2 WLR 262) disclaimer of a lease by a liquidator would not determine the liability, under that lease, of the original lessee or of his surety.

Although a lessor's right of re-entry was not "security" in a legal sense, there had since 1956 been a consistent line of authority to the effect that for the purposes of section 4(3) of the Act, the lessor was a secured creditor in respect of his right to re-enter and forfeit the lease for a breach of covenant. That subsection was designed and apt to preserve sacrosanct the tenant's covenants, so long as they were secured by a right of re-entry.

A voluntry arrangement might postpone, modify or extinguish a lessor's rights as a creditor of a company: none the less

(a) that no voluntary arrangement could prejudice a lessor's right to forfeit the lease if the full rent were unpaid, was implicit in *Doorbar v Alltime Securities Ltd (No 2)* ([1995] BCC 728, 739A-B; 1149, 1158F-H (Mr Justice Knox and CA);

(b) it was clear from the present facts that the scheme revealed no intention to vary the terms of the lease and even if there had been such intention, it would have been ineffective;

(c) although the scheme bound March and Gunmark, it only bound them with respect to their rights against Eldair; and

(d) there was no such release, by March, of its rights against Eldair as to extinguish March's rights against Gunmark.

There was accordingly summary judgment for March for all the rent found to be unpaid.

Solicitors: Helder Roberts & Co, Epsom; Churchers, Gosport.

Recalling in patient to same hospital

Regina v Secretary of State for the Home Department and Another, Ex parte D

Before Mr Justice Hidden

[Judgment March 20]

The Secretary of State for the Home Department could recall a patient under section 42(3) of the Mental Health Act 1983 to a hospital where he was already receiving treatment.

Mr Justice Hidden so held in a reserved judgment in the Queen's Bench Division when refusing an application for habeas corpus brought by D, a patient who had been conditionally discharged under section 42(2) of the 1983 Act, but who was, at the time of his recall by the Secretary of State, a patient under section 3 of the Act at Ashen Hill, Hellingly Hospital, Hailsham, East Sussex.

Section 42 of the Mental Health Act 1983 provides: "(3) The secretary of state may at any time during the continuance in force of a restriction order in respect of a patient who has been conditionally discharged under subsection 2 above by warrant recall the patient to such hospital as may be specified in the warrant."

Mr Kris Gledhill for D; Mr Michael Kent for the Secretary of State; Mr Philip Engelman for Eastbourne and County Health Care NHS Trust.

MR JUSTICE HIDDEN said that D's previous mental health history for present purposes started on November 29, 1985 when he was found not guilty of murder by reason of insanity and ordered to be detained in hospital under section 5(1)(a) of the Criminal Procedure (Insanity) Act 1964.

As a result, he was made subject to an order under sections 37 and 41 of the 1983 Act. He was then treated in Broadmoor Hospital, from where he was transferred on July 28, 1992 to Ashen Hill, a secure unit at Hellingly Hospital.

On October 27, 1993 a mental health review tribunal made an order under section 73 of the 1983 Act that D should be conditionally discharged. He left on March 22, 1994 and moved to a hospital in Brighton.

In the month or so before January 10, 1995 D's mental health deteriorated and he was readmitted to Ashen Hill under section 3 of the 1983 Act. It was while he was still so detained that on May 5, 1995 the Secretary of State issued his warrant of recall to Ashen Hill.

In July 1995 D's detention under section 3 lapsed under section 20. On November 10, 1995 a mental health review tribunal to which the Secretary of State had previously referred D's case did not order his release but recommended his transfer to a less secure hospital.

The question was whether the Secretary of State could recall a patient under section 42(3) to a hospital where he already was, and where he was already receiving treatment.

Mr Gledhill submitted that the words "recall the patient to ... hospital" had to be given their ordinary and natural meaning, which meant that the power could only be exercised when the patient was not a patient in that hospital.

It seemed to his Lordship that the answer was to be found in the words of section 42. Subsection (1) gave the Secretary of State the power to terminate a restriction order. Subsection (2) gave him the power to discharge the patient from hospital either absolutely or conditionally. Subsection (3) gave him the power, where there had been a conditional discharge, to recall the patient to the full regime of a restriction order. Subsection (4) made it clear that the hospital mentioned in the warrant might be either the hospital from which the patient was conditionally discharged, or any other hospital.

Those subsections gave the secretary of state his powers in relation to a section 41 restriction order. They appeared in Part III of the Act and were significantly wider than those under section 3 of the Act which appeared in Part II and dealt with compulsory admission to hospital and guardianship in non-criminal cases.

In his Lordship's judgment, the word "recall" meant "order to return, call back, permanently or temporary" and there was nothing preventing the issue of such an order to a person who was in fact present at the relevant hospital but without there being in existence any section 41 order in relation to that hospital.

However, if that were not the natural and ordinary meaning of the words, it would be necessary to apply the presumption favouring purposive construction.

Reduced to its basics, Mr Gledhill's argument would have the result that the only hospital which could not be named by the Secretary of State in his section 42(3) warrant would be the one hospital with which the patient had had the closest recent contact and where there were the medical and nursing staff who had most knowledge of him and also where he happened to be.

His Lordship found that result so absurd that Parliament could not have intended it.

Solicitors: Steel & Shamash; Treasury Solicitor: Donne Mileham Haddock, Brighton.

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Offers practical advice on planting your own container, and provides a wealth of ideas for the successful growing of flowers, fruit and vegetables to add interest and colour to gardens, patios and courtyards. It also explores the advantages of using indoor and outdoor containers such as pots, baskets, tubs and window boxes.

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Provides advice on how to grow many kinds of fresh seasonal harvest in the garden or allotment. The video is packed with useful information and features both commonly grown vegetables such as potatoes, carrots and the many types of beans, as well as the more unusual crops including asparagus.

WISLEY THROUGH THE SEASON: SUMMER
The second in a series of four seasonal videos, Summer sees Wisley's trials field ablaze with sweet peas and delphiniums, while the Rose Garden and the Broadwalk are at their best. Designed to be both informative and inspirational, the video brings the beauty of Wisley to life in your own home.

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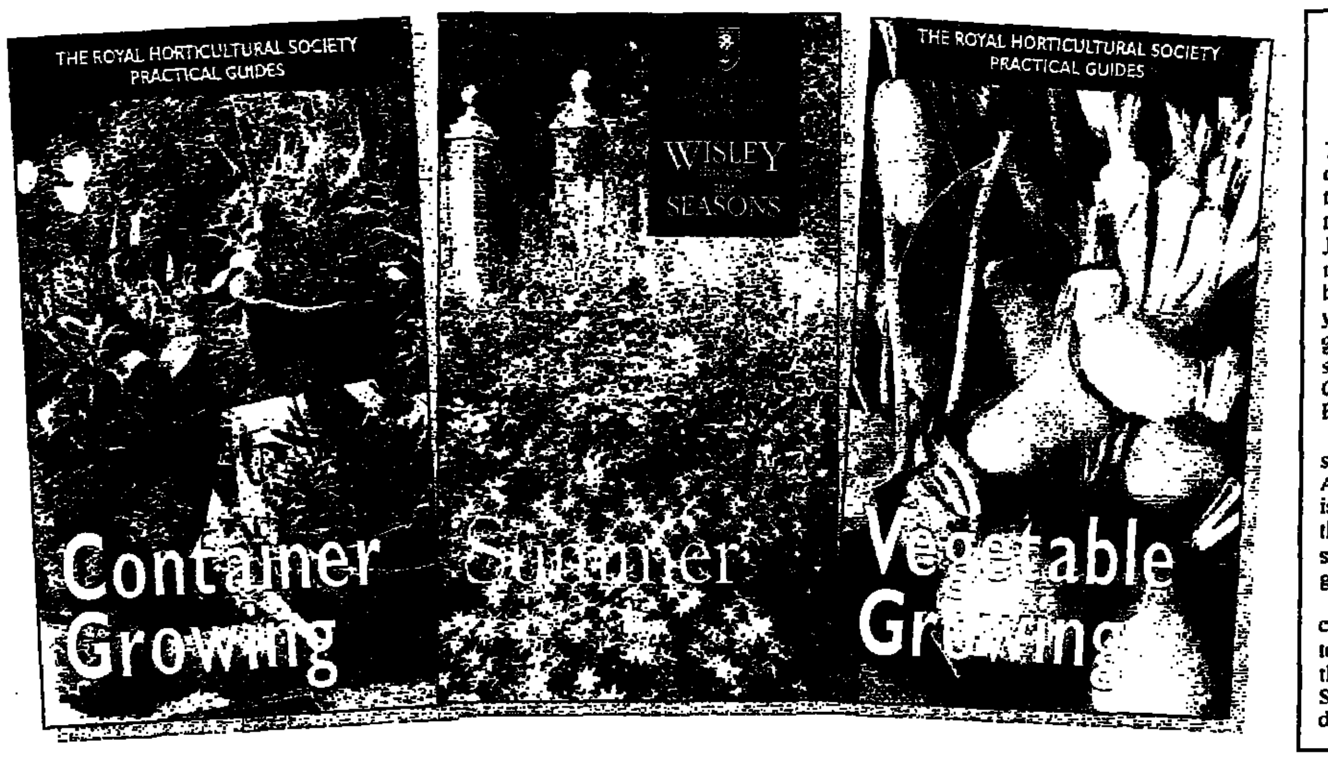
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Summer
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Vegetable Growing

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The Times is offering readers the opportunity to become a member of the RHS for four months free. The trial membership covers May, June, July and August, the best time of year to appreciate some of the 18 most beautiful gardens in Britain which you can visit free. Membership also gives you the opportunity to apply for special members' tickets to the Chelsea and Hampton Court Palace Flower Shows.

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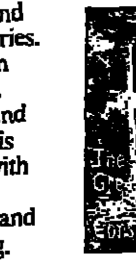
The final video looks at some of the more unusual plants that can be grown throughout the winter months and also looks at a number of useful digging and manuring methods.

SOFT FRUIT GROWING
Looks at the variety of soft fruits that can be cultivated: strawberries, currants, raspberries and gooseberries. Advice on cultivars, feeding and pruning is offered with hints on weeding and mulching.

SMALL GREENHOUSE AND CONSERVATORY
All of the essential considerations for choosing a greenhouse or conservatory are dealt with in this video. Plus expert guidance on how to get the best from growing under glass.

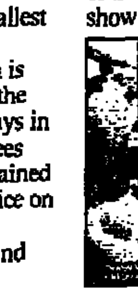


WISLEY THROUGH THE SEASONS: AUTUMN
Autumn is a time to harvest all the previous seasons' hard work. The video features the vast range of apple varieties grown and the correct techniques for harvesting and storage.

MAKING A SMALL GARDEN
How to create a garden from scratch, or adapt an existing one, with expert advice on constructing paths, lawns and terracing. It also gives practical ideas on suitable trees, shrubs and bulbs.

TOP FRUIT GROWING
See how to grow apples, pears, plums, peaches and cherries even in the smallest gardens. Attention is given to the many ways in which trees can be trained with advice on planting, feeding and pruning.

CHELSEA'95
A unique one hour souvenir of the world's greatest flower show. Presented by one of the most respected garden experts, Alan Titchmarsh, this is a splendid celebration of the 1995 Chelsea Flower Show.



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Capitalisation, week's change

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
5,086.80	Allied Domecq	491	-17	6.0	17.8
324.20	Bulmer (HP)	614	+35	2.5	19.3
68.20	Burn Stewart	115	-2	5.5	34.5
8,036.70	Grand Met	422	-12	4.4	18.2
9,167.80	Guinness	476	-10	4.0	15.9
458.20	Highland Dist	344	-4	2.9	15.6
177.30	Macallan-Glen	151	-13	1.1	33.5
86.70	Macdn Mrtn 'A'	630		2.2	17.8
641.10	Matthew Clark†	726	+8	3.8	
71.20	Merydown W	103	+1	2.4	
6,111.50	SA Breweries	2075	-181¼	1.6	30.0

BANKS

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
9,659.00	ABN-AMRO	3250	+92½	3.9	12.2
7,443.80	Abbey Natl	563½	-11½	4.8	10.8
2,240.80	Allied Irish†	333	-4	4.3	
4,488.60	Aus New Z	323	+3	5.2	
17,151.40	Bank America	4900	+75		
2,825.60	Bank Scotland	238½	-15	3.2	10.5
17,508.40	Barclays†	727	-8	4.5	9.5
2,082.40	Bk of Ireland	433	+4	3.9	8.7
146.00	Cater Allen	448	-2	6.4	7.4
25,135.80	Citicorp	5193¾	+81¼		
453.00	Close Brost	371		3.0	15.5
5,420.90	Commerzbk	£151½	-446¼	3.5	
39,858.80	Dai Ichi Kan Y	1278½	+31¼	0.5	
15,718.30	Deutsche Bk	3306¼	-28¼	2.2	
168.10	Espirito Santo	757½	+3½	4.5	10.4
41,330.10	Fuji Bank Y	1423	+48¼	0.4	
197.10	Gerrard Nat	403	-1	7.0	13.0
424.60	Hambros	240	+7	3.9	
8,644.40	HSBC†	1004	+2¼	4.0	11.6
17,741.10	HSBC HK†	993½	+16¼	4.0	11.6
321.80	Irish Perm†	366		3.5	
41.40	King Shaxson	157	+5	7.2	12.2
23.90	Leopold J	450		5.2	15.5
15,900.00	Lloyds TSB†	312½	-4	3.1	16.9
8,819.70	Nat Aust Bk	607	-11	7.0	7.9
11,276.30	Nat West†	636	-11	5.0	8.9
29.50	Rea Brothers	55		2.1	
3,943.90	Ryl Bk Scot	487½	-34½	4.2	11.0
1,615.80	Schroders†	1202½	-24	1.7	16.5
410.50	Schroders NV†	933	-8½	2.1	13.0
197.50	Singer & Fried	100	-1½	5.1	7.8
5,907.30	Stand Chart†	609	-6	2.3	13.5
27.40	Umont	103	-4	3.6	
8,581.50	Wells Fargo	£167¾	-618¼	1.8	
5,860.90	Westpac	308½	-5¼	4.7	
26.20	Wintrust	305	-1	4.8	17.5

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
4.56	Abrdn Stk H C	38	-2		9.3
93.60	Ascot Hldgs	339	-1		0.7
6,589.90	Bass	748	-3	3.9	17.2
11.30	Bri for the Bdr	47	-3	4.4	12.3
35.40	Burtonwood Brw	170		4.0	16.4
179.80	City Centre Rest	95		2.7	18.0
1,662.10	Compass Gp	528	+33	1.8	23.3
51.60	Eldridge P 'A'	348	-11	2.3	22.9
97.50	Fuller Sm 'A'	478	+8	2.2	18.9
1,702.30	Greenalls Grp	579	+8	3.1	15.7
268.00	Greene King	632		2.6	15.5
32.80	Grosvenor Inns	231	-15	3.0	24.5

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
236.10	Brammer	520	-37	3.5	
5.78	Bridgend Gp	21		1.2	
21.40	Brit Fittings	90	+12	5.1	
9.34	Caffyns	293	+3	5.1	19.5
29.60	Cavendale	11½		3.1	7.5
9.73	Central Mfr	71		0.9	
35.80	Charter Sicher	86	-7	5.4	13.5
24.90	Cook (DC)	58	+1	3.7	8.5
556.10	Cowie†	346	-3½	3.9	13.0
32.90	Dag Motors	136	+11	6.6	11.2
38.90	Desmans D	163		2.0	14.7
229.70	Diploma	411	+1	4.4	13.3
1,503.80	Electrocomponts	355	+13	2.1	24.1
167.60	Eurodis Elect	288	-15	1.9	30.6
51.00	Eurodollar	104		9.4	6.3
45.00	European Mtr	84	+2	7.7	7.2
105.70	Evans Halshaw	323	+4	6.6	
843.80	Farnell Elect	618	-2	2.0	18.0
9.77	Fife Indmar	63		8.8	
25.60	Gardner†	24	+2½	4.4	9.6
18.40	Glenchewton	61	-3½	1.9	...
7.91	Gowrings	86	-2	3.3	14.3
27.20	Harris (Philip)	250		3.7	15.9
118.10	Headlam▲	225		2.3	30.4
327.80	Heelys†	622	+4	2.4	18.3
4.52	Holders Tech	145		5.2	27.6
70.40	GA Intl	176		1.7	
1,510.40	Inchcape	286	+24	4.1	73.7
4.10	Jacks (Wm)	38		2.5	7.2
378.70	Kwik-Fit	218	+10½	2.5	15.0
358.50	Lex Service†	317	+4	5.9	11.5
41.40	Lookers†	124	+½	8.0	...
22.50	Malaya Gp	13½	+¼	6.1	
46.70	Middlesex	7½		0.8	17.8
20.60	Midstates	39	-1		
53.00	Norbain	510		1.8	17.3
41.80	Northamber	246	-1	0.9	19.7
13.10	PCTC	147		6.5	10.5
107.50	Pendragon†	280		4.0	14.2
47.10	Perry Gp	186	+7	5.5	
36.90	Quicks Group	158	+9	5.1	...
21.80	REA	285	+30	2.0	29.2
4.43	Reece	2½			
20.60	Ronson	56	-3	3.4	9.3
4.42	Ross Gp	3	+¼		
46.40	SEP Indl†	51½	+1½	3.9	12.0
35.00	Saltire	13½	-½		7.7
153.30	Time Products	297	+2	4.3	16.8
6.14	Tozer Hire	37	-3	4.3	19.4
130.40	Vardy (Reg)†	278	+3¼	2.7	15.5
51.60	Wholesale Fittgs†	360	+5	4.2	19.1
37.30	Wilshaw	40	-1	2.5	9.5
56.00	Wyko†	110		2.0	
19.90	Young (H)	113	-2	4.3	13.2

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
4.59	Anglo Utd	0¼			
570.50	Antofagasta	363		1.8	12.1
16,822.20	Broken Hill	923	-18	2.8	20.0
12,305.50	BTR†	315½	-6¼	5.8	13.0
14,974.00	BAT†	483½	-16½	6.2	10.0
291.10	Bertsford Intl	192	+5	2.0	18.7
184.40	Bibby (J)	118		6.1	9.5
1,614.50	Brierley Inv	60½	-¼	7.6	3.1
793.20	Charter	907	+38	3.9	13.2
2,138.30	Cookson†	314	+4½	3.2	19.2
19.10	Cosalt	148	-2	7.4	9.3
136.80	Fenner	148	-2	5.0	14.4
88.60	Grampian Hldg	127		6.2	
9,968.60	Hanson†	192	+4½	7.8	9.6
1,137.10	Harrison Crsfld	160	-5	7.3	16.4

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
116.90	Quadramatic	243	+3	4.2	15.0
5.62	Quadrant Grp	15		2.1	41.9
0.88	Radiant Metal	65			
95.30	Ransomes	69	+3	...	19.2
22.60	Record	66		7.1	12.0
184.30	Renold	271	+3	2.4	15.3
2.77	Richards Group	33		8.5	9.8
31.20	Richardson West	86	-2	5.4	...
3,163.50	Rolls-Royce	215½	-3½	2.9	26.4
187.50	Rotork	214	+8	3.2	
140.10	Rubicon†	166	-1	4.1	16.5
924.70	SKF 'B'	1450	-50	3.5	
314.30	Senior Eng	104	-2	4.4	
36.40	Smith-Roef	232	-12	1.7	
3,753.80	Siebe†	875	+9	1.8	24.2
124.20	Simon Eng	79	-1	1.0	20.9
103.90	Six Hundred	192		1.5	13.8
2,088.80	Smiths Ind	692	-3½	2.6	22.0
562.10	Spirax-Sarco†	716	-7	2.3	21.2
93.90	Sterling Ind	309	-1	3.2	15.0
2,293.60	TI	488	+11½	3.2	18.9
9.88	Tinsley (E/S)	95	...	7.4	13.9
107.00	TransTec	103	+12	2.7	
110.00	Triplex Lloyd	168	+9	5.2	12.5
46.60	Unicorn Intl	139	+1	4.9	11.6
35.20	Utd Inds	15½	+¼	2.9	12.6
19.90	Verson	13½	+¼		
875.10	Vickers†	262	-1	3.2	16.8
14.80	Villiers Grp	12½			
368.30	Vitec	761		1.7	14.4
265.50	Vosper Thorny	827	+5	3.3	15.1
216.50	Wagon Ind	418	+7	5.7	12.0
505.70	Weir	253	-7	3.8	
54.80	Wellington Hldgt	232	+3	4.0	
72.90	Wellman	50	+½	4.1	11.0
94.20	Whatman†	406	+13½	3.6	
9.07	Widney†	75	-1	5.7	8.7

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
113.30	Adwest	137	+1	7.2	38.5
22.80	Airflow Stream	268	-2	3.7	6.3
152.50	Avon Rubber	571	+11	3.9	13.9
214.30	BSG	73	+1½	5.7	
52.10	Bostrom	308		2.7	
13.20	Brocand▼	20	-8	6.2	
17.30	ERF	175	-3	3.2	10.3
68.30	First Tech	432		2.1	15.4
3,328.50	GKN†	951	+36	3.2	19.6
25,135.50	General Mtr	3537½	+37½	3.0	
13,907.80	Honda Motor	1427½	+8½	0.6	
619.10	Laird	436	+6	3.3	16.6
8.90	Loades	445		0.3	
1,885.50	Lucas	215	+6½	4.1	28.5
216.70	Mayflower	100		2.5	

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
113.60	Candover	507	+11	3.3	
119.00	Central Euro Grth†	59½	-1½	0.9	
48.90	Croft Asset†	214	+1	1.8	79.8
4.89	Danae Inv Inc	67	..	14.9	7.8
51.40	Derby Cap	335	+2	...	...
16.80	Derby Inc	142	..	17.0	7.3
225.00	Dunedin Inc G	703	+11	5.0	23.9
18.80	Dunedin Japan	92½	+5		
57.30	Dunedin Smlr	341	+8	3.3	43.8
1.84	Dunedin Wts	23	+4½		...
283.40	Dunedin Wrldw	846	+11	1.4	73.8
296.00	Edin Dragon	109¾	+2¼		
22.40	Edinburgh Inca	27¼			
971.00	Edinburgh	330½	+4	3.6	31.9
39.70	EFM Japan	169	+12½	...	
654.30	Electra Inv	378	+9	2.5	63.4
274.70	Electric Gen	237½	+3½	1.8	63.1
1.99	English Scot▼	151	+3	...	
97.10	European Asset	389½	+1½	1.6	
112.00	Fidelity Euro Val†	215	+7	0.3	
79.50	Fidelity Jap Val†	75½	+1½	0.2	
42.90	Fidelity Spec Val	117	+7	0.5	
28.50	Finsbury 'A'	178		3.4	57.3
8.27	First Spanish	94	+½	0.3	
173.60	Fnc Am Chile	190	+1	2.6	
0.54	Fos Am Wts	30½	+1½		
214.80	Fleming Amer†	314½	+11	1.0	
37.20	Fleming Chinese	61½		1.0	72.1
3.30	Fleming Ch Wts	27½	+½		
148.20	Fleming Claver	268		2.9	33.7
248.10	Fleming Cont†	360	+1	1.1	
145.20	Fleming Em Mkts	150	-1		
100.80	Fleming Enbt	252	+1	2.6	47.0
557.90	Fleming F East	369	+11	0.5	
51.90	Fleming Fledg†	412	+3	0.9	
32.80	Fleming Hi Inct	101	+½	5.8	30.7
53.40	Fleming Indian	61½	+1½		
6.34	Fleming In Wts	37½			
29.30	Fleming Intl	39½		11.9	10.8
511.60	Fleming Japan	269	+12½		
451.60	Fleming Merc†	312½	+8½	3.0	
44.90	Fleming Nat Rest	109	+1½	0.6	
467.50	Fleming Ovsas†	352	+11	1.6	62.0
1,676.30	Foreign & Col	159½	+2½	1.6	
44.10	F&C Inc Gwth†	102	+1	4.0	23.9
207.60	F&C Eng Mkts	110½	+¼		
88.60	F&C Enterprise†	94½	+1½	1.6	57.8
179.40	F&C Eurotst	288	+4	0.5	
53.80	F&C German	137	+2	0.5	
453.70	F&C Pacific	197	+7	0.9	78.8
79.10	F&C PEP	139	+1	3.5	32.4
191.10	F&C Smaller	182½	-1	1.5	75.1
68.80	F&C US Smlr	137			
2.33	Fulcrum Cap	14½			
3.37	Fulcrum Inc†	30			3.2
14.20	Fulcrum Zero	164½	+1		
105.00	Gartmore Brit	210	+1	4.3	
9.45	Gartmore Enf†	210		2.4	45.3

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
326.70	Murray Income†	379	+1	4.0	31.2
498.40	Murray Intl	413	+9	3.8	29.9
11.70	Murray S/C DF	182	+3	..	..
7.62	Murray S/C Cap	136	-1		
5.36	Murray S/C Inct	67		21.2	5.9
1.49	Murray S/C Ulst	2875		0.5	...
276.00	Murray Small	492	+6	1.2	
90.20	Murray Ventl	365		4.2	29.6
5.07	Newmarket	14			
20.40	Nolberg Inc	52	-½	11.6	11.4
15.40	Nolberg Cap	62	-1	...	...
190.50	O'seas Inv Tst	335	+12	1.1	
3.45	O'seas Wts	182	+7		
178.60	Pacific Assets	137½	-½	0.3	
32.40	Perpetual Jap	88½	+7½		
17.00	Perp Uk Sm Cot	326	+4	0.9	68.8
23.80	Personal Assets	£119		2.1	61.2
41.90	Pilot Inv	113		2.1	54.7
81.50	Prolific Inc	116½	+6	5.1	26.6
403.40	RIT Cap Ptns	223	+4	0.9	
44.30	River Merc Cap	110			
10.10	River Merc Grd Inc	72	...	13.5	9.2
8.57	River Merc Grd Pt	24½	-½		
82.90	River Merc Tst Inct	103		11.5	10.9
34.10	River Merc Sm Cot	132	+1	4.1	28.4
1.51	River Merc Sm Wt	31	+1		
	Robeco	490	+15	2.8	
	Rolinco	524	+17	1.5	
164.20	Schrd Asia Pac	117½	+3½		
88.60	Schrod Inc Gwth	112		4.5	
109.40	Schrod Jap Gwth	87½	+4		
55.10	Schrod Korea	835½	-11½		
1.80	Schrod Medien	327	+2	0.6	
6.37	Schrod Splt Cap	22½			
53.30	Schrod Splt Inct	94	-1	10.4	
49.20	Schrod Splt Zero	130½	+½		
154.40	Schrod UK Gwth	129½	+¼	2.9	46.2
772.30	Scot	272½	+8	2.6	47.2
375.60	Scot Americant	168	+1½	3.7	30.0
69.50	Scot Asian	331	+3		
6.79	Scot Wts	970	+5		
638.40	Scot Eastern	100½	+2½	2.2	
969.40	Scot Mtge	268½	+5½	2.1	51.6
142.90	Scot Natl Tst†	89½	+½	11.0	11.5
57.80	Scot Value	115		2.2	53.9
376.90	Second Alliance†	1963	-42	3.0	30.7
287.90	Secs Tst of Scot	89½	+1½	4.7	26.1
25.40	Shires Smlrt	131		5.4	
120.70	St Andrew Inct	351	+6	3.2	
213.00	Temple Bart	371	+2	4.9	23.0
139.60	Thmsn Asian E	117			
1.60	Throg Dual Cp	48	-7		
227.70	Throgmorton†	78½	+½	3.7	43.6
564.40	Tolton Emg Mkt	140½	+1	0.7	..
348.30	TR City Of Lon	168	-3½	4.1	29.4
132.30	TR Euro Growth	226½	+2½	0.9	
91.90	TR Far East†	185½	+3½	4.1	30.1
31.60	TR High Inct	131	+1	6.1	

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
381.00	Carlton Cmd	553	-22	3.5	39.1
1,327.00	EMAP	642	+24	2.1	25.0
6,513.90	Elsevier	931	+24½	2.4	
278.20	Euromoney Pb	1275	-8	4.3	35.6
11.90	Fitch	33½	+4	..	
557.30	Flextech	502	-5		
52.90	GBT Group†	138		3.4	15.2
159.10	GWR Gp▼	223	-9½	1.2	34.9
24.30	[illegible] Group	325	+7	2.4	14.7
19.10	Goodhead	25		0.5	
79.90	Grampian	245	-3	2.4	21.0
315.40	HTV Group†	360		1.3	
48.80	Haynes Pblg	313	+23	4.0	15.2
6.34	Highbury Hse	20	-1	..	
95.50	Hodder H'line	343	+18	3.4	..
16.50	Home Counts	165		4.2	18.6
117.50	IBC	302	+1	3.3	12.9
9.55	Incepta	15	...	...	7.3
630.70	Independent	535	-47	2.5	
5.06	Interactive	130		9.9	21.3
243.00	Johnston Press	192	-9	1.6	
9.41	Leeper	17½	-2	3.6	8.9
262.70	MAID	221	-24		
32.20	MediaKey	59		2.0	
61.72	Metal Bulletin	825	+25	2.4	29.2
187.50	Midland Ind	136		3.3	
912.80	Mirror Gp†	215	+8½	2.3	14.9
189.70	More O'Ferrall	573	-14	3.1	
7,376.50	News Corpt	321	-2	0.4	10.5
2,251.40	News Intl†	328	+11	1.3	12.8
7.26	Osprey Comms	27	+1		
3,726.30	Pearson†	663	-9¼	3.1	23.3
67.10	Phonelink	165	-4		
71.80	Portsmth Sund	538		2.5	15.0
48.00	Quarto†	281		3.5	
6,262.40	Reed Intl	1103	+10	2.9	
11,930.60	Reuters†	711	+5	1.7	27.6
83.20	Scot Radio	337		2.4	23.5
396.90	Scot TV	656	+14	3.2	
41.50	SelecTV	25			49.2
67.50	Shandwick†	49½	+½	3.3	9.2
11.40	Sleepy Kids	32	-7	0.5	
45.70	Southnews	235		2.1	17.9
12.10	Sterling Pub	26			
98.40	Taylor Nelson	42½	-½	2.0	..
636.50	Telegraph†	451	-11½	3.5	35.9
31.70	Television Cp	128	+3	6.1	19.2
5,655.40	Thomson Corp	967	-22	4.6	20.4
7,259.00	Thorn EMI	1584	+15	2.7	26.2
578.80	Trinity Intl	423	-1	3.2	...
136.00	Ulster Tv	1265	+2	2.2	25.1
1,519.70	United News†	617	-9	4.2	21.4
12.50	VTR	125		4.6	12.4
117.20	Visual Action	255	+2	2.3	18.7
1,474.80	WPP	231	+4	0.9	21.7
47.50	Wassington	57			31.5
525.60	Yorkshire TV	1019	+13	1.7	

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
239.70	Henderson Ad	1035		5.1	30.1
686.40	Invesco	257	-2	2.3	
11.90	Investment Co	43	+1	6.6	13.2
72.20	Ivory Sime	231	+1	4.2	17.2
2,191.50	Jardine Strat	206¼	-5½	4.6	...
17.40	Johnson Fry	115	+9	4.3	9.0
259.80	Lon Forfaiting†	255	+4	4.0	
179.50	London Pacific	254	+4	1.5	...
134.20	Lon Scot Bk	109	+2	2.9	22.6
366.20	Man ED & F	142	-5	8.5	7.2
880.20	M & G	1183	-30	3.4	23.7
1,292.10	MAI†	392½	-6½	3.4	17.9
	MAI 5.5% Cv Pf	147½	-1½	5.0	...
1,606.00	MAM	880	+35	3.9	19.4
65.20	Nat Home Loan	97	-5½	1.3	4.3
624.10	Perpetual	2245	+15	2.2	23.7
1,226.30	Provident†	907	+12	3.9	18.1
78.40	Rathbone Brs	331	-1	3.6	17.0
114.00	Rutland Tst	46	-½	3.3	
44.60	S & U	376	-2	4.3	11.2
318.30	SJP Capital	116	-2	3.2	21.9
5,603.20	Swire Pacific	577	+3½	2.1	22.4
5.39	Towry Law	35		3.6	...
972.10	Transatlantic†	354	+14	5.1	20.2
5.01	Tns Hldgs	6	..		..

PHARMACEUTICALS

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
1,447.50	Brit Biotech	2500	+165	..	
55.00	Cantab Pharms	509	+1	..	..
375.20	Celltech	408	+9		
166.60	Chiroscience	245	-8		
384.00	Cortecs	297	+6		
29,941.70	Glaxo Wellcome†	821	+4	4.6	16.6
723.80	Medeva†	244½	-10½	2.8	14.5
67.50	Peptide Thera	198			
459.80	Scotia	618	-2		
119.30	Shire Pharms	196	+11		
9,294.60	SmithKline†	657	-28	2.7	18.2
8,632.50	SmithKline Unit	653	-25	2.7	19.1
12,879.20	Zeneca†	1380	+7	2.8	24.3

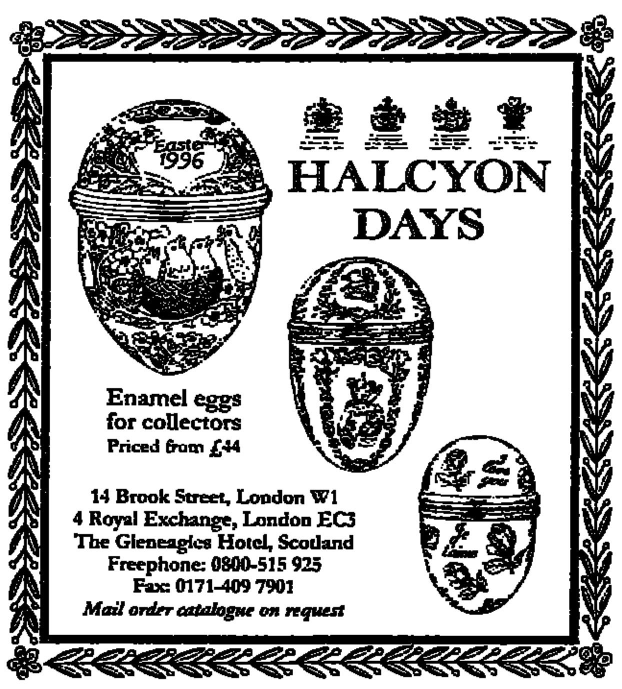
PRINTING & PAPER

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
25.00	AG Holdings	139		5.2	12.9
137.30	API	630		2.0	33.0
33.00	App Holo	125	+8		
1,672.00	Arjo Wiggins†	203½	+4½	4.6	70.4
40.50	Aspen Comms	370	-25	2.9	
131.90	Bemrose	380	-6	4.4	12.2
115.80	Bogden	160		1.3	20.6
969.30	Bowater Inc	2375	-140¼	..	
177.10	Bosmore Intl	505	+21	1.3	
292.30	Br Polythene	729	+2	2.9	
4.87	Br Thornton	29	+9	4.3	9.8
208.20	Britton Grpt	150	-1	2.5	15.0
978.60	Bunzl†	220	+7½	3.3	14.3
92.50	Capital Inds	189	-3	3.3	
25.00	Cropper (James)	301		1.5	20.0
1,598.70	De La Rue	715	-16	4.1	15.1
7.22	Delyn Group	84	..	2.6	12.2
31.60	Dolphin Pack	135	..	4.4	17.1
37.10	Fairway Group▲	93	-½	5.3	15.5
78.00	Ferguson Intl	193	-7	8.6	8.5
70.40	Filofax	234	-13	1.6	16.1
77.60	Inveresk	148		5.0	
142.40	Jarvis Porter	305	-3	2.6	16.3

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
591.00	Lloyds Chem	477	+6	2.7	17.9
950.00	MFI	163	-10	3.3	24.3
11,823.00	Marks Spencer	420	-10	3.1	15.2
303.50	Menzies (John)†	540	-10	3.1	17.6
13.60	Merchant Retail	16	-½		11.1
120.70	Moss Bros	710	+5	2.5	20.7
1,900.10	Next	507½	+43½	2.9	22.2
13.90	Oliver (G)	55	-1		
263.10	Oriflame Intl	292		7.8	19.5
14.80	Partridge Fine†	67		5.4	11.3
15.40	QS Hldgs	38	+3	5.0	
27.50	Rhino Grp	10½	-1		
52.40	Rosebys	221		3.2	
1,515.40	Sears	99½	+2	5.0	15.8
74.70	Signet Group	25½	+2		
7,249.60	Smith WH†	445	-2	4.4	25.8
332.50	Sotheby's	980	+17	1.9	
1,428.40	Storehouse	341	+3	2.4	21.0
45.50	Stylo	101	+1	5.8	8.6
146.10	T & S Stores	204	-2	4.4	
67.20	Tie Rack	169	-½	2.0	17.7
5.61	Upton & South	3¼	+½	..	
3,962.80	Vendome	588	-3	2.2	20.6
18.90	WEW Group	13		6.7	7.7
479.70	Wickes	127½	-3½	2.1	
8.71	Wld of Leather	72		2.8	..
83.20	Wyevale†	216	..	3.1	

SUPPORT SERVICES

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
1,552.40	ADT	1118	+28	..	
194.40	Alpha Airpts	116	-1	5.1	11.6
14.20	Alphameric	34		0.9	25.5
35.90	Auto Sec	30	-5		
1,929.90	BET Ord	203	-1	2.6	30.3
31.00	BNB Res	144	-5	5.7	
83.60	BPP†	318	+7½	4.4	
51.10	BSM	183	+1	4.8	
223.10	BTG	1775		0.4	..
372.90	Borland©	1312½			
4.49	Br Bloodstock©	107	+2	..	34.5
38.00	Brit Data Mgt	152	-¼	4.4	22.0
10.80	Brooks Service	90	-2	3.5	19.9
491.50	Business Post	383	+1	2.3	25.6
327.50	CMG	513	+25	1.2	
91.10	CRT Gpt	135	+1	3.6	20.8
1.94	Cairo Gp	194	+6		
187.10	Capita Group†	315	+12½	1.5	
4.45	Cardinal Bus	17			
3.33	Chemex	8¼	-¼	2.3	14.8
1,037.60	Chubb Sec	369	+4	2.6	19.5
106.60	Corp Services©▼	127	-5	3.4	
24.50	Coulls Cristgt	53	-¼	4.7	
16.10	DCS Gpt	85	-3	2.2	13.3
365.20	Davis Service	258	+1	4.6	
97.90	Delphi	384		1.5	15.0
17.40	Dudley Jenkins†	138	-2	3.1	21.2
9.83	EW Fact	54	+14	1.8	7.4
22.30	El Data Prct	85	+2	3.2	11.5
1,661.40	Hays	408	+6	2.3	19.7
201.30	Hogg Robinson	330	..	4.3	14.1
453.80	ISS B DKr	1747¼	+9¼	1.4	
133.00	JBA Hldgs	390	+10	1.1	41.0
133.40	Johnson Cleant	269	-½	5.2	
20.80	Kalamazoo	106	-5	4.5	10.6
51.20	Kewill Sys	413	+6	2.1	14.5
33.10	LBMG©	130	-20		
4.77	Laser-Scan©	16			
64.80	Leigh	98	+1	8.4	11.6
343.40	Logica†	545	+3	1.7	23.2
80.50	MDIS	80½	+1	8.0	17.6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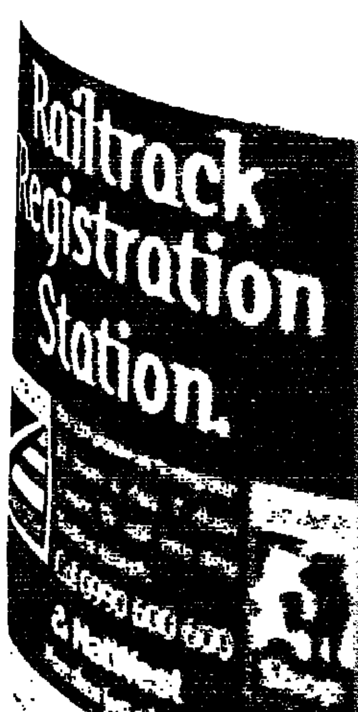
BRITISH FUNDS

Stock Outstanding (£m)	Stock	Price £	Wkly +/-	Int yld %	Gro red yld
SHORTS (under 5 years)					
1,150	Treas 15¼% 1996	100 11/16	-⅛	15.11	5.81
800	Exch 13¼% 1996	101	-1/16	13.12	5.80
1,200	Treas 2% 1996	216 13/32		0.92	5.84
3,409	Conv 10% 1996	102 15/32		9.76	6.00
1,988	Treas 7% 1997	100 21/32	-3/32	6.96	6.43
1,290	Treas 13¼% 1997	105⅝	-3/32	12.55	6.08
3,700	Exch 10½% 1997	103¾	-1/32	10.12	6.11
5,550	Treas 8¾% 1997	102 27/32	-⅛	8.50	6.49
830	Exch 15% 1997	112¼	-3/16	13.35	6.59
3,550	Exch 9¾% 1998	105	-3/16	9.29	6.73
8,150	Treas 7¼% 1998	100 21/32xd	-1/32	7.20	6.86
7,300	Treas 6¾% 1995-98	99 9/32	-3/32	6.77	6.91
970	Treas 14% 1998-01	113 13/32	-1/32	12.30	6.94
935	Treas 15½% 1998	119 1/16 †	-3/16	13.02	7.01
3,909	Exch 12% 1998	111 13/32	-⅛	10.77	7.13
1,900	Treas 9½% 1999	105¾	-3/32	8.98	7.16
3,050	Exch 12¼% 1999	113 9/16	-⅛	10.82	7.25
1,252	Treas 10½% 1999	108⅞	-3/16	9.64	7.27
6,600	Treas 6% 1999	96 5/16	-5/32	6.24	7.29
1,798	Conv 10¼% 1999	109⅜	-3/32	9.41	7.41
5,358	Conv 9% 2000	105⅛	-⅛	8.57	7.46
7,800	Treas 8% 2000	101 25/32	-3/32	7.86	7.51
3,171	Treas 13% 2000	119 9/16	-5/32	10.87	7.56
4,406	Treas 10% 2001	109¾	-3/16	9.14	7.64
MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)					
7,750	Treas 7% 2001	96 25/32	-3/32	7.23	7.70
6,527	Treas 9¾% 2002	109 9/16	-3/16	8.93	7.88
8,600	Treas 8% 2003	100 5/16	-⅛	7.96	7.93
2,903	Treas 10% 2003	111 1/16	-⅛	9.00	7.98
1,620	Treas 11½% 2001-04	114 13/32	-⅛	10.00	7.78
543	Fund 3½% 1999-04	79 3/16	-1/16	4.42	6.86
3,412	Conv 9½% 2004	108 3/16	-1/32	8.77	8.12
6,500	Treas 6¾% 2004	91 15/32	-3/16	7.37	8.11
8,900	Treas 8½% 2005	102 11/32	-3/16	8.31	8.13
4,842	Conv 9½% 2005	108 5/16	-⅛	8.76	8.15
2,200	Treas 12½% 2003-05	124 11/32	-3/16	10.04	8.12
6,000	Treas 7¾% 2006	95 5/16	-3/16	7.88	8.18
3,900	Treas 7¾% 2006	96 11/16	-1/32	8.02	8.22
2,000	Treas 8% 2002-06	98⅛ †	-3/16	8.14	8.26
3,150	Treas 11¾% 2003-07	119	-3/32	9.87	8.05
7,397	Treas 8½% 2007	101 25/32	-1/32	8.36	8.25
1,250	Treas 13½% 2004-08	131 9/16	-3/32	10.29	8.11
5,621	Treas 9% 2008	106 1/16	-3/16	8.54	8.28
3,450	Treas 8% 2009	97 9/32	-15/32	8.22	8.32
LONGS (over 15 years)					
4,750	Treas 6¼% 2010	82¼		7.60	8.37
5,273	Conv 9% 2011	105 7/32	-⅛	8.55	8.38
5,360	Treas 9% 2012	105 5/32	-3/32	8.55	8.39
1,000	Treas 5½% 2008-12	76 1/16	-11/16	7.23	8.11
6,100	Treas 8% 2013	96⅛	-1/16	8.30	8.39
800	Treas 7¾% 2012-15	94⅛	-⅛	8.23	8.40
9,500	Treas 8% 2015	96 5/16	-3/32	8.31	8.38
7,550	Treas 8¾% 2017	103 7/32	-3/32	8.48	8.42
1,000	Exch 12% 2013-17	131 15/32	-3/32	9.11	8.49
3,000	Treas 8% 2021	96 7/32	-3/32	8.31	8.36
UNDATED					
1,909	War Ln 3½%	41 11/16	+1/16	8.40	
475	Treas 2½%	29⅜ †	-1/32	8.47	
359	Consols 4%	46⅞	+1/32	8.54	
INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of:				10%	5%
800	Treas IL 4⅝% 1998	117 9/32	+3/32	1.64	2.98
1,700	Treas IL 2½% 2001	177 5/32	+9/32	3.08	3.60
1,700	Treas IL 2½% 2003	173 5/16	+⅛	3.26	3.66
1,000	Treas IL 4⅜% 2004	113⅞	+⅛	3.30	3.66
1,950	Treas IL 2% 2006	181	+1/16	3.41	3.69
2,050	Treas IL 2½% 2009	162 25/32	+11/32	3.49	3.73
2,350	Treas IL 2½% 2011	168⅛	+11/32	3.54	3.75
2,750	Treas IL 2½% 2013	138 5/32	+11/32	3.59	3.77
3,050	Treas IL 2½% 2016	145⅞	+1/16	3.83	3.80
2,900	Treas IL 2½% 2020	140⅛	+11/16	3.67	3.82
2,700	Treas IL 2½% 2024	116 11/16	+1⅜	3.66	3.80
1,300	Treas IL 4⅛% 2030	115	+11/32	3.67	3.81



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RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY

Interims: Chartwell International Group, Frogmore Estates. **Finals:** Automotive Products, Burmah Castrol, Caverdale Group, Highland Distilleries, IBC Group, Innovative Technologies, London and Manchester Group, Macallan-Glenlivet, Radamec Group, Reunion Mining, Sharpe & Fisher, Tanjong, Ulster TV.

Economic statistics: UK March purchasing managers' index, UK February M0 money supply, US March NAPM survey, US February construction spending.

TOMORROW

Interims: James Halstead, Highland Distilleries, Innovations Group, Old Mutual South Africa Trust, Pascoe's Group. **Finals:** Brooks Service Group, Chelsfield, CLS Holdings, Clydeport, Dagenham Motors Group, Fiscal Properties, GBE International, Gowrings, JBA Holdings, Kynoch Group, Oasis Stores, Scholl, Tarmac, TrafficMaster, Walker Greenbank, Waterford Wedgwood, Watts, Blake, Beame and Co, Yorklyde.

Economic statistics: UK February official reserves, US Q4 final GDP, US February leading indicators.

WEDNESDAY

Interims: Lyons Irish Holdings, McKechnie. **Finals:** Aegis Group, Atlas Converting Equipment, Blockleys, British Dredging, BWI, Chepstow Racecourse, City Centre Restaurants, Densitron International, Goldsmiths Group, Hewden Stuart, Laird Group, Princedale Group, Rugby Estates, United Industries, Vymura.

Economic statistics: UK monthly monetary meeting, US February factory orders, German March unemployment.

THURSDAY

Interims: London and St Lawrence Investment Company. **Finals:** Ben Bailey Construction, Bilton, First Russian Frontiers Trust, Friendly Hotels, Home Counties Newspapers Holdings, Alfred McAlpine, Martin International Holdings, UK Safety.

Economic statistics: UK February housing starts and completions, Bank of France monetary policy meeting, US weekly jobless claims, US February housing completions.

COMPANIES

MICHAEL CLARK

Burmah Castrol runs smoothly

BURMAH CASTROL: The long-time takeover favourite Burmah Castrol is due to unveil impressive full-year figures today. These are expected to show net profit, after tax and exceptionals, climbing from £114 million to £129 million. Bruce Evers, oil analyst with Henderson Crosthwaite, the broker, expects the main thrust of the improvement to come from the group's involvement in emerging countries.

The star performance will come from Castrol India, its 51 per cent owned subsidiary, which continues to enjoy strong growth, but positive peformances will also come from places such as Thailand and Vietnam. "The resurgence in some of these economies has been phenomenal," Mr Evers says.

But the group's performance in the US is likely to have been mixed. The industrial side should have enjoyed a reasonable performance, but, on the consumer side, conditions have been unsettled.

Europe will have been weak compared with the rest of the group, while Foseco will have benefited from a strong first-half performance. Fuels are expected to be down 15 per cent year-on-year, with a positive first-half performance being outweighed by the cost of restructuring later in the year.

Jonathan Fry, chief executive, is expected to report an impressive set of full-year figures

TARMAC: It was a busy time for Tarmac as it repositioned itself in the construction market with the exchange of assets with Wimpey, one of its rivals. As a result, full-year figures out tomorrow are unlikely to make pleaseant reading for shareholders. NatWest Securities, the broker, is forecasting a fall in pre-tax profit to about £95 million, compared with £107.2 million in 1994.

One of the drawbacks of its restructuring programme has been greater exposure to the road construction industry, in which conditions are described as bleak, at best. In spite of the profits shortfall, it looks as if the dividend will be pegged at 5.5p.

HEWDEN STUART: After cautious comments about the plant hire industry at the halfway stage, it looks as if conditions may have deteriorated further since then. Even so, the group should be able to achieve a small improvement for the year when it reports on Wednesday, with the poor weather and flooding in January providing a boost to demand for driers and general tool hire for repair work.

Brokers have pencilled in a figure of about £36.5 million, against £34.8 million last time. It should allow scope for a modest increase on the dividend, with 3p being forecast against 2.7p.

LAIRD GROUP: The group is expected to have continued to benefit from its recent acquisition programme when full-year figures are announced on Wednesday. Brokers forecast a rise in pre-tax profits from last year's £48 million to about £70 million after a 57 per cent leap in the first half to £37.5 million. The range is £68 million to £75 million.

A strong all-round performance is expected, with both the automotive and non-automotive parts of its business performing strongly. Vehicle-related sales should be 27 per cent ahead compared with an 8 per cent increase for the industry generally. It will have been helped in no small part by a full first-time contribution from Draftex, its recent acquisition in Spain.

Fullerton, Laird's computer-related operation in the US, will have recovered from start-up costs in the third quarter relating to its phase one plant in the US serving IBM and Compaq. The only weak link will be building materials where the performance will have been affected by the gloomy backdrop to the industry generally.

HIGHLAND DISTILLERIES: In an effort to revive its fortunes in a depressed drinks industry, the group this year launched its own brand of gin and even held talks with Remy Cointreau in an effort to bolster overseas sales. It is unlikely that these ventures will have any impact on interim figures expected from the group tomorrow. But it will be trying hard to make up for last year's disappointing performance.

Once again, any improvement in profits is likely to stem from sales of Famous Grouse, its Scotch whisky, which is estimated to account for about 50 per cent of the group's profits in this country and as much as 70 per cent worldwide.

A small increase in pre-tax profit has been pencilled in this time, with brokers forecasting £24.5 million, against £23.7 million for the corresponding period. The drinks market remains depressed. Sales are sluggish, although the picture is slightly brighter for the group overseas.

MACALLAN GLENLIVET: It is likely to be a similar story for Macallan Glenlivet when it unveils full-year figures today. The drinks market remains difficult, at whichever end a company happens to be operating. This will be clearly revealed in Macallan's figures, which are expected to show a rise in pre-tax profits of less than £1 million to £7.58 million. However, according to NatWest Securities, shareholders can comfort themselves with a 15 per cent increase in the total dividend to 1.46p.

LONDON & MANCHESTER: A change in accounting rules are expected to complicate full-year figures from the life insurer today. Pre-tax profits are expected to show a rise of £2.1 million to £41 million, but earnings will show a decline from 20.6p to 19.7p. The underlying trend is likely to reveal a slowdown in life profits growth. A 9 per cent increase in the dividend to 18.7p is likely to be achieved by a reduction in cover.

UNITED FRIENDLY: These figures are also likely to clouded by those changes to accounting rules and the payment of special bonuses. But mixed trading conditions are likely to see pre-tax profits down from £47.6 million to about £42 million when the group reports tomorrow. The consolation for shareholders will be a 20 per cent rise in the dividend to 24p.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Jobs under the spotlight

With few major statistics due to be published in Britain and the monthly monetary meeting on Wednesday expected to leave UK interest rates unchanged, this week's focus will be on France, where the Group of Seven industrialised nations meet for a jobs summit, and America, where the latest employment figures are eagerly awaited.

The jobs summit takes place in Lille today against a background of, as John Shepperd, of Yamaichi International Europe puts it, "slowing or outright depressed levels of manufacturing activity in most of the major European economies". February figures for German industrial production, due to be released today, are expected to show a fall in manufacturing output of 1.4 per cent. Also out today is Britain's purchasing managers' index, which has been suggesting that manufacturing is stagnant. Against this, some economists say a small cut in French interest rates is possible after the Bank of France's council meeting on Thursday.

Many American statistics are published this week, all of which will be closely examined given the current confusion about the state of the US recovery. The US purchasing managers' survey for March is published today, to be followed tomorrow by the final figures for fourth-quarter gross domestic product and February leading indicators, with personal spending and income for February to come on Wednesday.

But the most important figure of the week will be Friday's non-farm payrolls for March. The February figures caught the financial markets by surprise. Wall Street had been looking for a bounce-back in employment, but the rise was at least twice as big as expected. Now, the markets are waiting to see if that February figure is revised and whether a weaker number emerges for March.

Other British releases this week are M0 narrow money supply today, reports on house prices from the Halifax and Nationwide building societies, official reserves and housing starts.

JANET BUSH

SUNDAY TIPS

The Sunday Times: Buy Aegis, Alfred McAlpine and Princedale. Avoid Hodder Headline. **Hold** Next. *The Mail on Sunday*: Buy Boxmore International. **Hold** Monument Oil & Gas. *Independent on Sunday*: Buy National Power and PowerGen and Enterprise Oil. **Avoid** P&O. **Sell** Wm Morrison. *The Sunday Telegraph*: Buy Burmah Castrol, Crestacare and Tarmac.

GILT-EDGED

Debt is the worry, not inflation

This economic cycle is different. The British economy has been recovering for more than three years, but inflation is still low. Even the normally cautious Bank of England expects it to stay low. In spite of this, there are misplaced fears that recovery will trigger inflation. Some people are even making comparisons with the credit boom of the 1980s. The 1890s might be more appropriate. Then, the world economy was undergoing structural change, with commodity prices and inflation falling, triggering severe economic dislocation, as newly industrialised economies caught up.

Now it is the turn of South-East Asia to catch up. Western companies have to restructure. This has brought low inflation in the 1990s, and this will continue. British firms are working existing employees and capacity more efficiently. Productivity has risen. Unit labour costs remain subdued. Even though skilled workers' pay may rise, global disinflationary pressures and corporate downsizing will cap wage pressure.

There are some risks. The biggest is the lack of previous investment, because it could trigger inflation bottlenecks. Higher productivity should lessen this risk. Also, rising imports and a deteriorating trade deficit may act as a safety valve for inflation pressures. Firms' past reluctance to invest means that even an improving rate of return on capital in business may not trigger the investment it should.

Low inflation contributed to a strong rise in real personal disposable income last year. Along with subsequent policy easing, this should allow steady consumer spending. However, sluggish wages and job insecurity will ensure that the rebound in spending is at a moderate, not unsustainable pace. Consumers still expect value for money, and this will cap inflation pressure.

Falling inflation can accompany steady economic growth. The retail price equation in the Treasury's economic model shows significantly less inflation pressure in the last four years than the model would have expected. I expect this trend to continue, with underlying retail price inflation falling from 2.9 per cent last year to 2.4 per cent this year and only 2 per cent in 1997.

> ❛ Investors may need to be convinced that a Labour government could control spending ❜

This should hardly worry gilt investors. Low inflation should let the Chancellor cut rates again, particularly if rates on the Continent fall. I expect base rates to fall to 5.5 per cent by late summer, although the Chancellor may take a neutral stance in the next two months, as he assesses the pace of recovery.

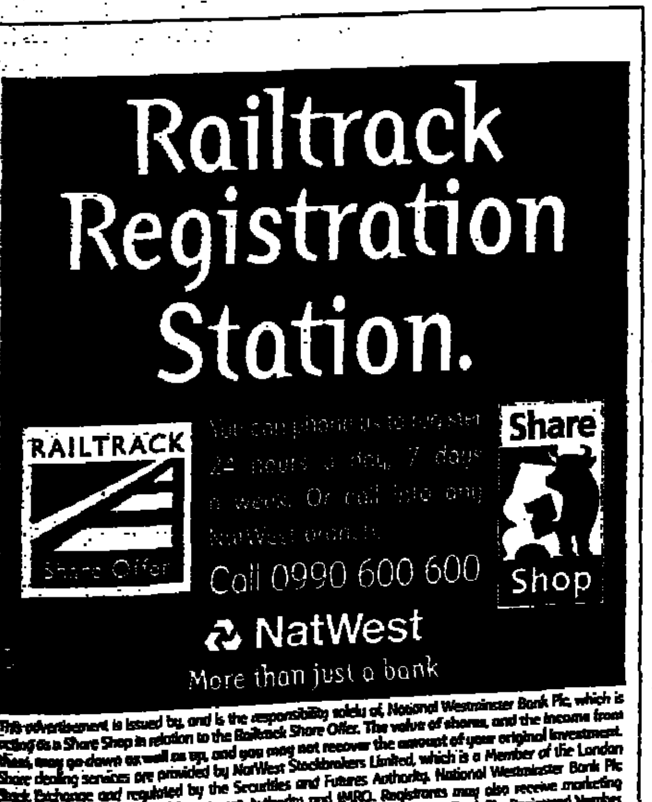
Although sterling may weaken in the immediate approach to an election, its downside against the mark should be limited, partly because the recent devaluation has been followed by competitive gains, and not inflation. This calls into question the pessimism being built into the gilt market, where ten-year yields are 1.8 per cent above those on comparable German bonds.

This risk premium is too high. It reflects concerns that British inflation is about to soar, either by the Chancellor easing policy too much before the election or by Labour reflating when they win. Will policy lead the UK to buck the international trend of low inflation? I do not think the risks in the UK are higher than elsewhere.

If investors are to worry, it should be about debt. In the new fiscal year, the Government plans to issue £32.6 billion in gilts, taking into account £11.4 billion maturing gilts as well as new issuance. This is sizeable, but, judging from recent years, the outcome could be higher.

For international bond markets, inflation is not the problem. Debt is. Debt-to-GDP ratios have continued to rise in the industrialised world, as pension and health costs have increased. High structural unemployment has added to the problem on the Continent, and the Government's inability to control general expenditure has worsened matters here. Fortunately the UK's medium-term debt outlook does not look so bad, but investors may need to be convinced that an incoming Labour government could control spending. In view of these debt worries, the yield curve may remain steep, even though inflation will stay low.

GERARD LYONS
DKB International



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CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar
1.5262 (-0.0086)
German mark
2.2531 (-0.0115)
Exchange index
83.4 (-0.5)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share
2768.0 (-1.1)
FT-SE 100
3699.7 (-7.3)
New York Dow Jones
5587.14 (-49.5)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge
21406.85 (+705.93)

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.06	1.90
Austria Sch	16.86	15.36
Belgium Fr	49.32	45.02
Canada $	2.189	2.029
Cyprus Cyp£	0.749	0.694
Denmark Kr	9.32	8.52
Finland Mkk	7.68	7.01
France Fr	8.10	7.45
Germany Dm	2.41	2.20
Greece Dr	388.00	363.00
Hong Kong $	12.45	11.45
Ireland Pt	1.02	0.94
Israel Shk	5.1600	4.5100
Italy Lira	2499.00	2344.00
Japan Yen	176.80	160.80
Malta	0.590	0.535
Netherlds Gld	2.675	2.445
New Zealand $	2.39	2.17
Norway Kr	10.38	9.58
Portugal Esc	244.00	225.50
S Africa Rd	6.64	5.84
Spain Pta	196.50	183.50
Sweden Kr	10.83	10.03
Switzerland Fr	1.95	1.77
Turkey Lira	112697.	104697.
USA $	1.623	1.493

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading on Friday.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

0171-782 7344

PUBLIC NOTICES

FRIENDS PROVIDENT

NOTICE OF MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the 163rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF FRIENDS' PROVIDENT LIFE OFFICE will be held at GLAZIERS HALL, 9 MONTAGUE CLOSE, LONDON BRIDGE, LONDON, SE1, ON WEDNESDAY 24TH APRIL 1996 at 2.30 p.m. to transact the following business:-

1 To receive the Accounts and Balance Sheet for the year ended 31st December 1995 and the Reports of the Directors and Auditors thereon.

2 To re-elect as Directors of the Office the following Directors, who retire by rotation:

Keith Satchell
John Whitney

3 To elect as a Director of the Office Peter Jones who has been appointed since the last Annual General Meeting.

4 To re-appoint Price Waterhouse as the auditors to the Office and to authorise the Directors to fix their remuneration.

By Order of the Directors,
B.W. Sweetland,
Secretary.

1st April 1996

Friends' Provident Life Office,
Pixham End, Dorking, Surrey RH4 1QA

NOTES

(a) A Member is entitled to appoint another person (who need not be a Member) to attend the above meeting and vote instead of him.

(b) To be valid the instrument appointing a proxy, which should be as near to the form set out in rule 30 of the Rules of the Office as circumstances admit, and the power of attorney or other authority (if any) under which it is signed, or a notarially certified copy of that power or authority, must be deposited at Pixham End, Dorking, Surrey, RH4 1QA, not less than forty-eight hours before the time fixed for holding the meeting, or adjourned meeting, or, in the case of a poll, not less than twenty-four hours before the time appointed for the taking of the poll.

(c) Proxy forms may be obtained on application to the Secretary.

(d) Members intending to attend and vote personally at the meeting should be prepared to quote their policy numbers.

(e) Only Members are entitled to vote. Certain policyholders are not Members. If a policyholder who is not also a Member completes and returns a form of proxy, it will not be counted.

(f) Members have one vote each irrespective of the number of policies held.

(g) Members are entitled, on application to the Secretary, to receive a copy of the Report and Accounts.

TO COLIN JOHN BRYANT
late of 4 Handel Road,
The Polygon, Southampton,
Hampshire SO15 2BW

TAKE NOTICE that an Application for a Property Adjustment Order in respect of the property 4 Handel Road, The Polygon, Southampton, Hampshire has been filed against you. You may apply to the Southampton County Court at the Combined Court Centre, London Road, Southampton, Hampshire SO9 5AF for a copy of the Application which bears the number 95 D 489. If within one month you have not communicated with the Court, the Court may hear the case in your absence.

LEGAL NOTICES

Sky Rail Oceanic Limited
in Administrative Receivership
Registered Number: 648145

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 48 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a general meeting of the unsecured creditors of the above-named company will be held at PO Box 553, 30 Eastbourne Terrace, (2nd Floor), London W2 6LF on 11 April 1996 at 12.00 hrs for the purpose of having a report laid before the meeting and of hearing any explanation that may be given by the Administrative Receivers. Creditors whose claims are wholly secured are not entitled to attend or be represented.

Please note that a creditor is entitled to vote only if he has delivered to the Administrative Receivers at Leonard Curtis & Co. not later than 12.00 hrs on 10 April 1996 details in writing of the debt claimed to be due from the company, and the claim has been duly admitted under the provisions of the Insolvency Rules 1986 and there has been lodged with the Administrative Receivers any proxy which the creditor intends to be used on his behalf.

Dated: 27 March 1996.
J.J. Schaptra, ACA
Joint Administrative Receiver.

BURGESS WELDING
& ENGINEERING LIMITED
BURGESS TRANSPORT
REPAIRS LIMITED
BURGESS LIFTING LIMITED
(All in
Administrative Receivership)
NOTICE TO CREDITORS

A meeting of the creditors of each of the above companies is to be held at No 1 London Bridge, London SE1 9QL on 11 April 1996 at 11 am under the provisions of Section 48 of the Insolvency Act 1986. The purpose of each meeting is to receive the report of the receivers and if the creditors wish to do so, to appoint a committee of creditors.

Creditors who have not received notice of the meeting and wish to attend should contact the receivers office (telephone number 0171 939 3000) and ask for Chris Page.

Any creditors requiring a copy of the report (which is available free of charge) should write to Price Waterhouse, No 1 London Bridge, London SE1 9QL.

Creditors whose claims are wholly secured are not entitled to attend or be represented at the meeting.

19 March 1996
M D Gercke
Joint Administrative Receiver

FLEETFOOT LIMITED
(In Members'
Voluntary Liquidation)
Company number: 1411640
NOTICE TO THE CREDITORS
OF FLEETFOOT LIMITED

On 22 March 1996 the company was placed in members' voluntary liquidation and Anthony Victor Lomas of Price Waterhouse was appointed liquidator by the shareholders.

The liquidator gives notice under the provisions of Rule 4.182A of The Insolvency Rules 1986 that the creditors of the company must send details, in writing, of any claim against the company to the liquidator, at No. 1 London Bridge, London SE1 9QL by 30 April 1996 which is the last day for proving claims. The liquidator also gives notice that he will then make a final distribution to creditors and that a creditor who does not make a claim by the date mentioned will not be included in the distribution.

The company is able to pay all its known creditors in full
Date 26 March 1996.
A V Lomas, Liquidator.

LEGAL NOTICES

ASCOT STABLES LIMITED

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a Meeting of Creditors of the above named Company will be held at 8 Baker Street, London W1M 1DA on 3rd April 1996 at 10.30 hours for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99, 100 and 101 of the said Act.

Mr Raymond Hocking of BDO Stoy Hayward, 8 Baker Street, London W1M 1DA is qualified to act as an Insolvency Practitioner in relation to the above Company and will furnish creditors, free of charge, with such information concerning the Company's affairs as is reasonably required

Dated 21st March 1996
By Order of the Board.
T A Hawker, Director.

M.F. GRAPHICS LIMITED
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Malcolm Ellis Cork of Moore Stephens Booth White, 1 Snow Hill, London, EC1A 2EN was appointed Liquidator of the above named company on 21st March 1996.

Creditors are required, on or before 24th May 1996, to send their names and addresses and particulars of their debts to the Liquidator and, if so required by notice in writing from the Liquidator, are to come in and prove their debts or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.

Dated 27th day of March 1996.
Malcolm E. Cork, Liquidator.

No 001025 of 1996
IN THE HIGH COURT
OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT
IN THE MATTER OF
ROPNER INSURANCE
SERVICES LIMITED
and
IN THE MATTER OF
THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated 27th March 1996 confirming the reduction of the share capital of the above-named Company by £467,109 from £2,500,000 to £2,032,891 and the Minute approved by the Court showing with respect to the capital of the Company as altered the several particulars required by the above-mentioned Act were registered by the Registrar of Companies on 27th March 1996

DATED this 1st day of April 1996.
Theodore Goddard
150 Aldersgate Street,
London EC1A 4EJ.
Solicitors
for the above-named Company.

The Insolvency Act 1986
MOUNTIER ARCHITECTURAL
FABRICATION LIMITED
(In Liquidation)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Maurice Raymond Dorrington FIPA of Poppleton & Appleby, 4 Charterhouse Square, London, EC1M 6EN was appointed Liquidator of the said Company by the members & creditors on 19th March 1996.

M.R. Dorrington, FIPA,
Liquidator.

PUBLIC NOTICES

WESLEYAN ASSURANCE SOCIETY

Head Office
Colmore Circus, Birmingham B4 6AR
Established 1841

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual General Meeting of the above Society will be held at the Head Office on Tuesday, 23 April 1996 at 12.00 noon.

Members will be admitted only if they have attained the age of 18 and premiums on policies held by them have been paid to date. Certificates for attendance, copies of the Annual Report and Accounts for 1995 and Forms of Proxy for members unable to attend are available on application to Head Office.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD
A B DICKEN F.C.A.
SECRETARY

28 March 1996

FINANCIAL NOTICES

THE CARNEGIE UNITED KINGDOM TRUST

Abstract of Audited Accounts
For the Year Ended 31 December 1995

	(£)	(£)
Funds and Provisions		
Endowment Fund		25,792,801
Other Funds		1,150,921
		26,943,722
Reserve Fund		
As at 31 December 1994		1,081,323
Income from investments, etc		1,431,272
		2,512,595
Less		
Direct Charitable Expenditure	1,125,793	
Other Expenditure	235,881	
		1,361,674
As at 31 December 1995		1,150,921

C JOHN NAYLOR
Secretary and Treasurer

Comely Park House, Dunfermline, Fife KY12 7EJ
13th March 1996

Panther to pounce on Elys results

The hostile bid by Panther Securities for Elys, the department store group, will become more heated this week when Panther sends a strongly worded letter to Elys shareholders condemning the group's annual results. Andrew Perloff, Panther chairman, will tell shareholders that the group had a "disastrous" trading year in 1995.

Housing hope

The housing market is set for a modest recovery, according to National Westminster. David Kern, chief economist, is forecasting a 2 per cent rise in house prices in 1996.

Pay deals steady

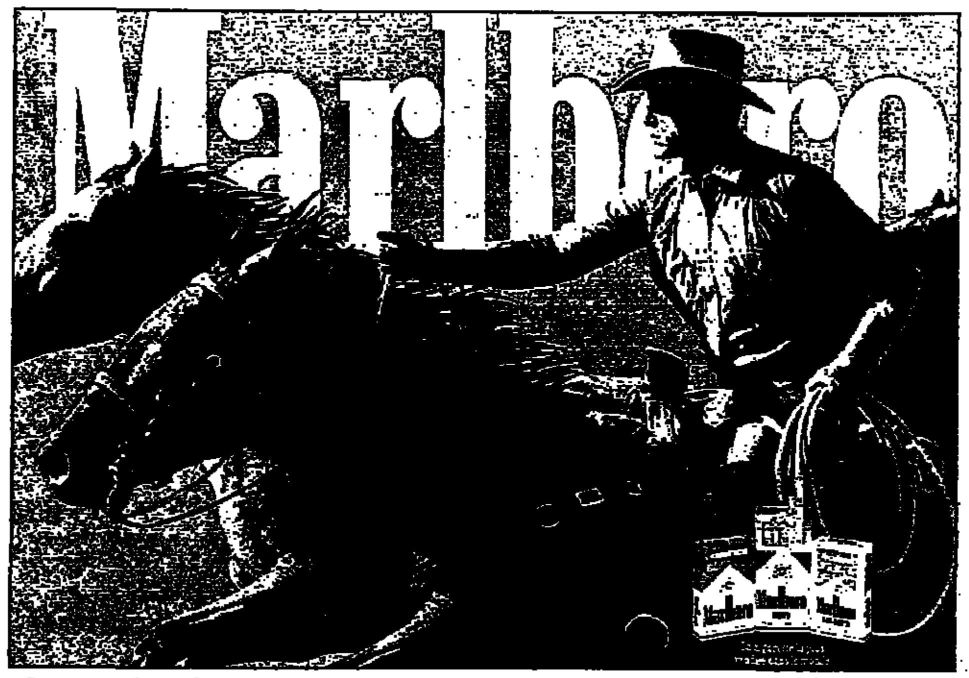
Pay settlements are continuing to hold steady, rising at 3.5 per cent, according to Industrial Relations Services, the independent pay research company.

Wetherall issue

Wetherall, the UK manufacturer of reversible women's coats, skirts and jackets, is raising £340,000 through the issue of 1.7 million shares at 20p each.

Richard Thomson on the first criminal charges against the tobacco industry

Smoking out the 'evil empire'



Come to where the lawsuits are: Philip Morris, the Marlboro combine, faces 125 actions

BROWN & WILLIAMSON, the US tobacco subsidiary of BAT Industries, will this week face the first criminal charges ever brought against the tobacco industry by the US Justice Deaprtment when several employees are expected to be indicted for smuggling.

The indictment will represent a further blow to the company which is already locked in a legal battle with a former employee who has accused it of lying about the addictiveness of nicotine in cigarettes. It will also be another setback for the entire tobacco industry that is still reeling from the recent decision by Liggett Group to settle two legal actions, the first time a tobacco company has done so.

Federal officials have stated that they are seeking an indictment against Brown & Williamson employees from a grand jury in New Orleans on charges that they obtained cigarettes from international sources and subsequently had them smuggled into Canada to avoid the country's high taxes.

This is the first of five federal grand jury investigations into the tobacco industry to reach an indictment. Other investigations involve whether tobacco executives lied during Congressional testimony in 1994, whether tobacco companies engaged in securities fraud violations and whether the industry concealed research into the health risk of cigarettes. Brown & Williamson, the third largest cigarette company in the US, is involved in most of these investigations. Evidence in respect of the smuggling charge came from a raid by federal agents on the company's headquarters in Louisville, Kentucky, last year.

Further legal pressure on the tobacco industry last week came from the state government of Texas via a $4 billion lawsuit to recover healthcare costs of smokers. Launching the suit, Dan Morales, Texas attorney-general, called the tobacco industry an "evil empire". His suit joins those from six other states claiming back the cost of looking after people made sick as a result of smoking. It accuses the industry of systematic fraud and racketeering since the 1950s by withholding facts about the dangers of smoking and enticing people to smoke.

The tobacco industry was thrown into confusion two weeks ago when Liggett agreed to settle two big lawsuits in a move that broke an agreement within the industry to fight all legal challenges brought against it. The tobacco industry feared that a settlement would set a precedent that would open the floodgates to a spate of new court actions. Such fears appear well-founded and other states are expected to follow the Texan lead.

Philip Morris, the Marlboro tobacco combine, has vowed to fight all charges brought against it. The company and its subsidiaries face 125 lawsuits alleging tobacco-related illnesses. Cases are also pending against its Canadian and Brazilian subsidiaries. Against this background, investment managers are becoming increasingly bearish towards tobacco shares.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Sporty hero for the B&B

CHRISTOPHER Rodrigues, otherwise the "Outsider" or the "Quiet American", who is to take over as chief executive of the Bradford & Bingley in June, is causing almost as big a stir in building society circles as talk of conversion.

At Thomas Cook, where he worked for eight years, Rodrigues, a US-educated Briton, was rated a swashbuckling hero. The sports fanatic took two weeks off each year to coach the Cambridge rowing team and spent weekends in the Cotswolds, perfecting the role of country gent. "He's very gung-ho and has boundless energy," gushes a Thomas Cook insider. "Every Friday, he'd walk through the door on Berkeley Street with at least two guns on one shoulder and a rod on the other."

Big in beef

ALLIED Domecq Leisure is continuing its bovine bonanza, announced a fortnight ago, to develop a further 100 Big Steak Pubs in the next 12 months. In spite of recent concern about beef, the company is putting about £750,000 into each new outlet, creating 40 to 50 jobs at each. Big Steak, famed for its 32oz rump, from New Zealand, says it will now sell only beef from Australasia and Argentina. England and Wales already have 335 Big Steak pubs, most boasting Wacky Warehouse play sites for young foodies.

Like hot cakes

DEMAND for the upmarket *Aga Magazine* from cosy kitchens is so great that its publishers are starting subscriptions. Until now, the magazine that interviews Aga-owners such as Anthea Turner, has been available only to those having a service contract with the cooker company, or through provincial Cooker Centres. The Aga was invented in 1922, by a blind Swedish physicist, and the publishers expect its devotees to ensure that the glossy quarterly, costing £15 a year, hits 120,000 circulation by harvest time.

Sting in the tail

DETAILS emerge of revelry behind the £18 million joint venture of Grand Metropolitan, the drinks group, and Qufu, the state-owned Chinese distillery. Expeditionaries from GrandMet's International Distillers and Vintners visiting Shandong Province were obliged to join in a local ritual of knocking back a dozen glasses of local Confucius Family Liquor to wash down a plate ... of scorpions.

Number one

ROBERT Smith's election as president of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland should shake things up. Smith is not a partner in a big accountancy firm. As chief accountant of Morgan Grenfell development capital, he is more noted for streetwise deals. While with Charterhouse merchant bank, he dubbed his team "animals with hairy chests". More braveheart than accountant, perhaps.

MORAG PRESTON

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page *24*

CARRIWITCHET

(b) A pun, quibble; a hoaxing question or conundrum. Derivation unknown. Dr Fitzedward Hall asks: "Can it be a corruption of the French *colifichet*?" Who can tell, Fitzedward? Walter Scott, *Nigel*, 1822: "Mortally wounded with a quibble or a carriwitchet at the Mermaid."

COLOQUINTIDA

(b) The colocynth or Bitter-apple (*Citrullus Colocynthus*), a widely-cultivated plant of the Gourd family, the fruit of which is about the size of an orange, and contains a light spongy and extremely bitter pulp, furnishing the well-known purgative drug. J. C. Powys's *A Glastonbury Romance*: "Hours sweet as honey and hours bitter as coloquintida had slid down the same fatal slope into everlasting oblivion."

CETE

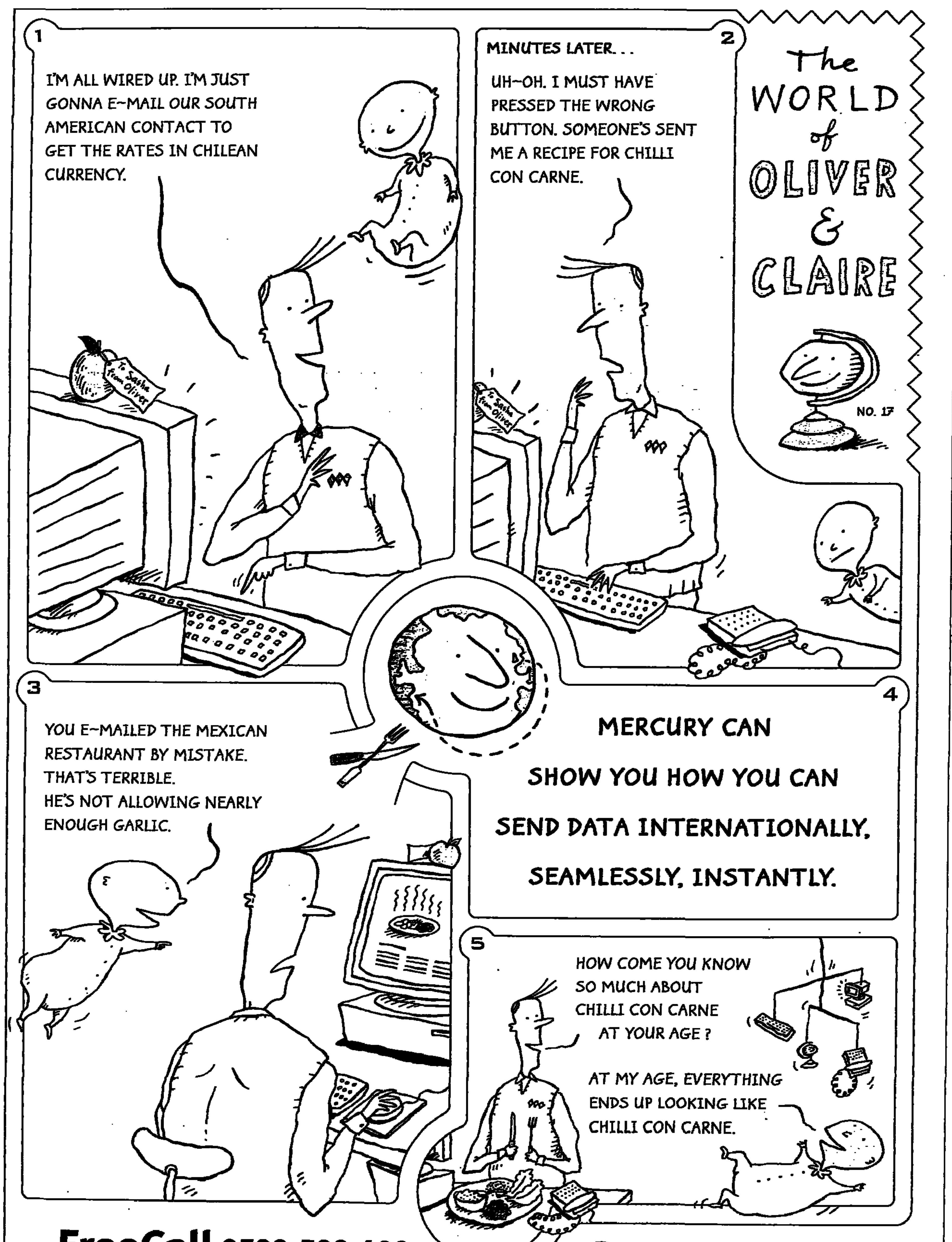
(b) A company of badgers. Possibly an adaptation of the Latin *coetus*, in medieval spelling *cetus*, meeting, assembly, company. "Keeping what the old writers used to call a cete of badgers."

JONGLEUR

(a) The Norman French term (technically used by modern writers) for an itinerant minstrel, who sang and composed ballads, told stories, and otherwise entertained people. By confusion with *joculator*, altered to *juggler*. Bulwer Lytton, *Rienzi*, 1835: "A minstrel or jongleur, with a small lute slung round him, was making his way through the throng."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Rxg7+! Nxg7 2 Qf7+ Kh8 3 Qf8+ mating.


1
I'M ALL WIRED UP. I'M JUST GONNA E-MAIL OUR SOUTH AMERICAN CONTACT TO GET THE RATES IN CHILEAN CURRENCY.
To Sasha from Oliver
MINUTES LATER...
2
UH-OH. I MUST HAVE PRESSED THE WRONG BUTTON. SOMEONE'S SENT ME A RECIPE FOR CHILLI CON CARNE.
The WORLD of OLIVER & CLAIRE
NO. 17
3
YOU E-MAILED THE MEXICAN RESTAURANT BY MISTAKE. THAT'S TERRIBLE. HE'S NOT ALLOWING NEARLY ENOUGH GARLIC.
4
MERCURY CAN SHOW YOU HOW YOU CAN SEND DATA INTERNATIONALLY, SEAMLESSLY, INSTANTLY.
5
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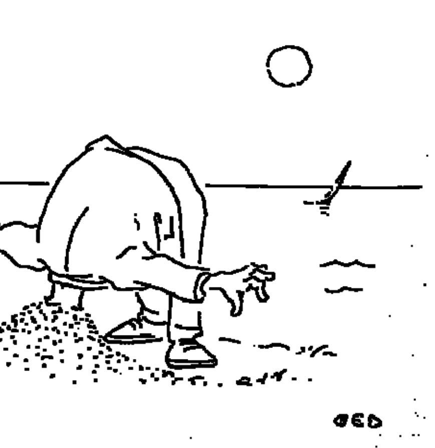

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THE TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT

هكذا من الاصل

Societies forecast shrinkage

Building society chief executives believe the number of societies will contract by at least a quarter before the end of the century. Some 11 per cent of those questioned in a recent poll go further with the prediction that the number of societies will more than halve in the space of four years.

The survey, conducted by the *Mortgage Finance Gazette* and Hammond Suddards, the solicitor, found that mergers between societies are expected to be the most likely route of shrinkage.

The industry does not expect to see another round of building societies converting to banks or merging with other quoted companies. Almost 70 per cent of respondents expect the number of societies to drop from 79 to under 60 by the end of the century.

Pay change

Glaxo-Wellcome, the giant UK drugs group, has scrapped paying some of its directors £20,000 for their services as pension-fund trustees. The payments were made to certain executive and non-executive directors, including Sir Paul Girolami, former chief executive, and Lord Howe, a former Chancellor.

Brand advice

The Patent Office is urging British owners of brands to oppose European Union trademarks which clash with their UK-registered trademarks if they wish to stop the European mark becoming effective in the UK. The international trademark systems come into force today.

MBO record

A record £8.1 billion worth of management buyout and buy-in deals were conducted in the year to March 31, according to research by the Centre For Management Buy-out Research. It says that, in the first quarter of 1996, about £3.3 billion worth of deals were completed.

JULIAN HERBERT

Deutsche Morgan Grenfell emerged the victors of the mixed final of the EXCO Broomball Challenge Cup on the ice rink at Broadgate in the City. The bank's team "The Dulwich Maternity Clinic", one of 120 to take part over five months, beat "The City Slickers", above, a team entered by Thomas Miller, a reinsurance company

Equities jobs toll tops 370 at Merrill Lynch

By Patricia Tehan, banking correspondent

MERRILL LYNCH, the American investment banking house that acquired Smith New Court last summer, has cut 375 equities jobs since September, a third of them in London.

Michael Marks, the former chairman of Smith New Court who became the deputy chairman of Merrill Lynch International, said that most of the cuts arose from the elimination of overlap in settlements operations in the newly merged organisations.

The firm has also suffered some high-profile departures of key former SNC staff, including the head and deputy head of UK research, prompting a management reshuffle. There is still talk of a clash of culture between the two firms. However, Mr Marks played down the unplanned departures, saying that tensions in the merged organisation "were much less than expected last summer".

Smith New Court, historically the largest market-maker in London, saw its Stock Exchange market share fall from 19 per cent to 17 per cent in September at the time of the physical integration of the firms. However, Mr Marks said that it was now at 21.13 per cent, "the highest it has ever been".

Agency business has also improved — from 11 per cent in January to 12.8 per cent now.

Mr Marks said that the next step for the combined organisation was to push international equities research into Merrill Lynch's private client equities business and to leverage international research in the US.

Combining the two organisations has enabled the firm to win mandates that would not have come its way before the summer.

Mr Marks quoted the example of the firm's appointment as lead broker to the Halifax, which it won from SBC Warburg.

Merrill Lynch was also appointed early this year as broker to Abbey National, replacing Kleinwort Benson Securities, which had acted for Abbey since its conversion from a building society to a bank in 1989.

Ian Harley, the finance director of Abbey, said that the bank had picked Merrill Lynch because of the increasing US focus to its business through its Treasury operations and its recent American Depository Receipt launch.

It retained SBC Warburg as joint broker because it felt that the quality of the banking analysis was stronger.

Bob McCann, the deputy chairman of Merrill Lynch, said that the next stage would be the integration of the two firms' information technology systems.

He added: "The acquisition of Smith New Court has caused us, in a very positive way, to have to address issues of systems development that we would have had to face eventually anyway."

OFT may examine bid for IoM ferry

By Marianne Curphey

SPECULATION is mounting that Sea Containers' proposed £46 million takeover of the Isle of Man Steam Packet Company may prompt an inquiry by the Office of Fair Trading.

In response to inquiries by *The Times*, a spokesman for the OFT said that, as Steam Packet was the only provider of ferry services between the Isle of Man and the mainland, its role was "something we will look into and which we could be concerned with". Investigations are triggered if a company created out of a merger controls more than 25 per cent of the market.

Steam Packet directors have recommended shareholders to accept the offer, which values the company at between £43.8 million and £46.8 million. The cash offer is 146p per share, a premium of 13.2 per cent over last Thursday's market price of 129p. The cash and shares offer is one Sea Containers share plus 480p in cash for every ten Steam Packet shares.

Steam Packet has been independent for almost 166 years. A large proportion of Manx residents hold shares in it and may be reluctant to sell to the Bermuda-based shipping combine. The Steam Packet board claimed summer sailing schedules were unlikely to be altered and said it did not expect any initial job losses among the 200 employees.

Walter Gilbey, director and acting chairman, said: "We do not believe a referral to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission will be necessary. The board will remain in place and Sea Containers intends to honour the ten-year contract with the Isle of Man Government which regulates the standard of services and frequency of sailings, and dictates that prices cannot rise by more than inflation minus 0.5 per cent."

☐ Fishermen who believe they are entitled to interim hardship payments after the grounding of the *Sea Empress* off Milford Haven have until the end of this month to make their claim. So far, some 30 claims have been lodged with Skuld, the Norwegian insurer.

SFA review may result in tougher penalties

By Robert Miller

SENIOR officials from the City watchdog responsible for taking disciplinary action against former senior executives at Barings over their supervisory role in the £860 million collapse are to consider tougher sanctions against rule-breakers.

Executives from the Securities and Futures Authority (SFA), the regulator for brokers and futures dealers, met last week to discuss making the "proximity" relationship between directors and senior managers and those below them more clearly defined. A spokesman for the SFA said yesterday: "We have to look at our procedures and rules in this area and see if it is appropriate to make them more watertight."

The SFA, which has charged nine former Barings executives for failing to act with due skill, care and diligence in monitoring the trading activities of Nick Leeson, has undertaken the review after independent legal advice said that the watchdog could not press charges against the two most senior men at the 233-year-old merchant bank. To do so, the SFA would have had to prove that they had committed "an act of misconduct" and there was no such evidence.

The SFA did, however, secure an agreement from Peter Baring, the former chairman, that he would never return to work in the City, while his deputy, Andrew Tuckey, agreed to a more restricted role.

ING, the Dutch banking and insurance combine that bought Barings, said last week that Mr Tuckey, 52, had taken early retirement on an annual pension of around £120,000 and could expect to receive a further sum in the region of £110,000 for consultancy work. ING Barings has resisted calls for Mr Tuckey, who resigned from his management positions after the crash last year, to leave the bank altogether. An ING executive is reported to have said: "We're not giving them that and there's no point in saying that we are."

The deadline by which the nine former executives must decide whether to appeal against the SFA sanctions or agree to settle passed last Friday. The nine include Peter Norris, former chief executive officer, who is understood to be facing an indefinite ban from certain SFA registers for senior executives as well as costs of more than £10,000.

Another senior figure, Ian Hopkins, who was in charge of group treasury and risk, is believed to have refused to accept a possible three-year ban from the senior SFA registers plus a costs bill of £10,000.

Maiden aims for market

By Robert Miller

MAIDEN GROUP, one of the largest media owners in the UK outdoor advertising market, will today unveil plans to seek a listing on the London Stock Exchange to reduce its debt and raise additional funds for possible future acquisitions. The placing will raise about £20 million and value the company at not less than £65 million.

Maiden, which has about 25,000 poster sites, was the subject of a management buyout in April 1993. Since then, turnover has risen 52 per cent to £36.5 million. Unaudited results for 1995 show that operating profits, excluding exceptionals, are up 77 per cent to £5.9 million.

Maiden will come to the market through Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, with NatWest Securities acting as broker.

The Advertising Association forecasts that total UK advertising revenues, excluding production costs, will rise to £6.6 billion by the end of this year, compared with £5.8 billion in 1994. Outdoor advertising revenues are expected to increase to £403 million, from £350 million, over the same period.

Millennium flotation to raise £150m

By Alasdair Murray

MILLENNIUM and Copthorne, the hotel enterprise, is aiming to raise about £150 million when the company floats at the end of this month.

The flotation will value the hotel chain at about £350 million, with CDL, Millennium's parent company in Singapore, continuing to hold between 55 and 60 per cent of the stock. Millennium yesterday published its pathfinder prospectus and accounts for 1995, which showed operating profits of £34.6 million on a turnover of £159 million. The company's net assets are valued at £292 million.

Edouard Gremlich, chief executive of Millennium, said: "The flotation will help raise the profile of our portfolio of 23 hotels in the UK, New York, France and Germany as well as Millennium and Copthorne brands internationally. It will also increase our flexibility to pursue our strategy of growth by selective acquisition."

Mr Gremlich said the flotation would provide capital for expansion, with about £100 million allocated to the repayment of debt.

British banks face huge outlay for dithering on euro

By Martin Waller

THE single European currency could cost British high street banks as much as £300 million apiece, rising to £500 million if delays in preparation for the coming of the euro continue.

This analysis comes from a paper from BMS Bossard, the European management consultants, published in *The Banker* today. Shahram Nikpour, the author and partner in charge of financial services, says British banks are well behind their European rivals in preparing for a single currency.

BMS Bossard estimates that converting to the euro could take British banks four years and require between 3,000 and 5,000 man years to effect.

Banking sources have long been concerned about the cost of the switch to a single currency, but insist delays are inevitable because of the continued political wrangling over Europe. Banks are unwilling to commit themselves to extra spending on systems and conversion until they are sure Britain will join the European Monetary System.

Nikpour: concern over delay

But Mr Nikpour says costs rise every time the banks delay facing facts about the single currency issue.

■ Growth in Europe's Big Four economies is down sharply, with negative growth in the final quarter of 1995 recorded in all but the UK, according to DRI McGraw Hill. In research published today, DRI, which says Germany is technically "almost certainly" in recession, predicts that the general economic slowdown is likely to lead to a brief postponement of the introduction of European monetary union.

N&P Life Assurance Limited
General Accident Life Assurance Limited

A Petition having been presented for their approval to the Court of Session by N&P Life Assurance Limited, a company incorporated in England and Wales under the Companies Act (Registered No. 6259849) and having its Head Office at Edinburgh House, 4 North St Andrew Street, Edinburgh, for sanction of a Scheme under which the with-profits long term business written by N&P Life Assurance Limited and reassured with General Accident Life Assurance Limited is transferred to General Accident Life Assurance Limited pursuant to section 49 of the Insurance Companies Act 1982, the Lord Ordinary has pronounced an Interlocutor in the following terms at Edinburgh on the 19th day of March 1996.

"The Lords having heard Counsel for the Petitioners allows the Petition to be amended as proposed at the Bar appoints Petition as amended to be intimated on the Walls in common form; Appoints a notice in terms of paragraph 2(2)(a) of Schedule 2c to the Insurance Companies Act 1982 to be published once in each of the London, Edinburgh and Belfast Gazettes and once in each of the Times, the Financial Times and the Scotsman newspapers; Directs that a statement setting out a summary of the scheme and a summary of the report by an independent actuary to be sent to each with profits policy holder of N&P Life Assurance Limited with the exception of those policy holders whose current addresses are unknown to N&P Life Assurance Limited; Quoad ultra dispense with the requirements of paragraph 2(2)(b) of Schedule 2c of the said Act; Grants warrant for service of a copy Petition together with a copy of the said report of the independent actuary, a copy of the said statement and a copy of this Interlocutor, on the person designed in the schedule for service attached to the Petition; Appoints all parties claiming interest to lodge Answers to said Petition, if so advised, within 21 days after the date of said intimation, publication, sending of the statement, and service."

Any party wishing to object to the approval of the said Scheme should lodge Answers with the Deputy Principal Clerk of Session, Parliament House, Edinburgh within the period specified herein. Copies of the Petition and the Scheme and of a report on the terms of the Scheme prepared by an independent actuary will be available for inspection from the date of this Notice until the date of the Final Hearing of the Petition at the Head Office of the Petitioner and at the said General Accident Life Assurance Limited at 2 Rougier Street, York.

All which intimation is hereby given.

Biggart Baillie & Gifford, Solicitors,
Dalmore House, 310 St Vincent Street,
GLASGOW G2 5QR
(Ref CBM/5248.1)

ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT MARKET

A whole new ball game for Chelsea

TRADING in Chelsea Village — the parent company of Chelsea Football Club — will kick off today with about nine million shares placed on the Alternative Investment Market (AIM).

The float values Chelsea at £58 million. This makes the club nominally the second most valuable in the country, although a long way behind fully quoted Manchester United, capitalised at more than £150 million, who yesterday beat Chelsea 2-1 in the FA Cup semi-final. The club will be operating a share hotline today and is encouraging supporters to buy, although there is no formal allocation system. But investors, as opposed to supporters, might want to consider that the club does not intend to pay any dividends in the foreseeable future and that 90 per cent of the share capital is controlled by Ken Bates and a number of other anonymous shareholders.

Meanwhile, the crisis over "mad cow" disease fixed attention back on Electrophoretic International, which has been attempting to find a cure for the disease. But speculators hoping to make a profit last week will have come away disappointed. The shares ended 17p down on the week at 148p.

■ A KPMG Corporate Finance survey out today says that the attractions of AIM to smaller companies has led to a noticeable fall in full stock market listings in the first quarter of the year. There were only 16 full flotations raising just under £1 billion compared with 22 in the same period last year.

ALASDAIR MURRAY

1995-1996 High	Low	Mkt cap (million)		Price pence	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
134	89	19.10	AMCO Corp	134	+ 20	4.2	14.7
58	16	2.09	Abacus Recruit	38	...	...	...
130	118	18.40	A de Gruchy	125	...	5.6	10.4
18	5½	16.20	African Gold	15¾	+ 2¾	...	...
14	11	5.01	Albemarle & Bd	13½	...	...	...
24	17	9.97	Alpha Omikron	19	...	...	...
435	380	37.30	Ann St Brewery	390	− 5	5.6	11.7
905	855	5.30	Ann St Cv Pf	895	...	8.9	...
156	73	67.50	Antonov	95	− 1	...	...
10	8	1.89	Arion Props	8	− 1	...	...
75	51	10.90	Ask Central	68	− 3	...	...
61	50	1.10	Atheiney Trust	61	...	...	...
6½	5½	5.76	Ballymalray	5½	− ½	...	...
31½	15	5.13	Baris Hldgs	20	+ 1	...	...
48	43	3.85	Belcanto	43	...	...	...
155	140	0.99	Bowness Leis	145	− 2	3.9	...
75	70		Bown Leis Cv Pf	70	...	...	...
63	43	6.02	Brancote Hdgs	60	...	...	...
345	190	40.70	Brockbank	345	+ 2	2.7	...
118	108	0.94	CCI Hldgs	118	...	...	...
110	108	0.13	CCI Founder Shs	110	...	...	...
122	85	3.49	Cafe Inns	122	+ 7	2.0	10.0
75	55	7.39	Caledonian Tst	65	...	...	7.9
2	2	1.55	Capital & Wstn	2	...	...	...
83	38	16.90	Card Clear	75	− 1	...	...
84	60	3.39	Cassidy Bros	62	...	6.0	8.8
45	41	1.79	Cavendish W F	41	...	...	20.8
19	17	4.99	Celebrated Group	17	...	...	...
9750	6550	25.30	Celtic	9750	+200	...	...
9550	6450		Celtic Pf Shs	9450	...	...	...
130	109	16.40	CI Comms(TV)	122	+ 3	2.5	15.7
86	50	7.47	Chartwell Intl	70	+ 4	...	...
110	95	0.99	Clan Homes	110	...	...	...
33	28	13.10	ClubPartners	31	+ 1	...	...
510	500	12.20	Com de Prt Fin	510	...	...	...
44	30	8.76	Conister Tst	40	− 1	5.0	...
83	53	15.30	Country Gdns	83	+ 6	2.1	...
73	56	2.68	Cntry Gdns Pf	73	...	9.1	...
139	92	35.60	Creos Intl	99	...	...	...
63	52	21.20	Crown Products	56	− 4	...	...
210	115	13.30	DBS Management	197	− 3	3.8	8.0
43	34		Dalkeith Inns	34	...	...	...
71	63	3.41	David Glass	63	− 3	5.7	9.0
1250	480	57.20	Dawson Hdgs	1250	...	3.0	33.8
14	10	3.79	Dean Corp	13	...	...	76.0
90	63	12.20	Dmatek	65	+ 2	...	...
137	118	16.80	Easynet	118	...	...	...
200	90	95.70	Electrophoretics	148	− 17	...	...
130	120	5.40	Euro Sales Fn	120	...	...	...
345	205		Farlake	345	...	...	...
280	38	5.77	Fiol Pubis	245	...	...	...
212	37	14.50	Firecrest	87	− 35	...	...
183	180	37.10	First Infor	183	...	...	...
230	178	5.25	Flomerics	205	− 2½	1.6	...
328	155	7.63	Floral St	328	...	0.4	14.9
193	50	17.50	Formscan	166	− 9	1.5	21.6
17	14	62.30	Freepages	17	+ 2½	...	...
105	88	5.25	Furlong Homes	105	− 1	3.0	...
10	8	24.50	Gander Hdgs	8½	...	...	...
22	15	5.40	Greenhills	18	− 1	...	...
165	145	32.40	Guiton	145	...	3.5	...
60	23	2.34	Hansom	23	...	...	...
130	100	59.00	Hiscox Ded Ins	130	...	0.3	...
119	105	10.70	Indpt Radio	107	+ 2	...	...
88	68	14.20	Inner Workings	85	...	...	...
543	488	21.50	Intl Greetings	513	...	1.2	...
143	108	32.10	IOC Intl	131	+ 3	...	...
116	83	3.87	Jasmin	95	...	...	14.3
305	275	22.00	Jennings Bros	298	− 2	2.7	21.4
141	98	39.00	KS Biomedix	103	− 2	...	...
165	132	25.30	Lancashire En	140	...	3.6	11.1
243	195	14.80	Lawrence	243	...	0.8	...
3050	2550	49.80	Laurie Group	2550	−200	3.5	13.0
285	255	43.10	Le Riches Strs	260	...	7.4	25.5
95	85		Lifehome As Ten	95	...	...	...
3¼	2	29.00	Lon Fiduciary	3	+ ¼	...	...
80	55	1.38	London Town	55	...	...	...
228	100	12.00	Lorien Grp	210	− 1¼	2.3	...
28	17	10.60	Manx & O'seas	18	− 1	2.3	24.4
130	113	13.60	Marine & Merc S	113	− 12	...	...
127	58	42.70	Megalomedia	99	− 2	...	...
109	36		Megalomedia Wts	89	− 2	...	...
111	63	6.71	Meltek	106	+ 13	3.0	...
595	125	91.80	Memory Corp	155	...	...	...
23	21	6.04	Metrodome Films	21	− 1	...	...
220	83	15.20	Moorepay	200	− 2	2.8	...
0¼	0¼	9.08	Mountcashel	0¼	...	...	...
82	52	23.10	MultiMedia	80	+ 8	...	...
340	280	21.80	NWF Grp	290	− 45	2.8	14.0
210	140		Nash (Wm)	200	...	4.1	...
345	200	8.73	Neill Clerk	345	...	2.2	16.7
208	145	5.49	Neilson Cobbold	200	...	2.4	10.0
73	61		Norcity II	73	...	...	...
73	58		Norhomes	73	...	...	...
78	66	7.56	Nthn Petim	66	− 2	...	...
8	8	0.13	Nthn Petim Wrts	8	...	...	...
71	63		Nthmb Res Prps	63	...	...	...
116	103	17.80	Nursing Home	115	− 1	1.3	33.1
110	54	13.50	Old English Pub	110	...	1.1	...
96	70	5.55	Omnicare	90	...	0.7	...
86	51	9.12	Omnimedia	51	− 5	...	...
83	66	19.30	Optical Care	83	+ 10	...	...
1¾	1	18.70	Pacific Media	1¾	...	...	...
55	43		Pacific Med Pf	55	...	...	...
93	12¾	28.80	Pan Andean Res	70	+ 1	...	...
210	180	4.31	Park Ests(Liv)	180	...	...	...
445	345	94.70	Pet City	390	− 2	...	...
169	124	29.80	Polymasc Pharms	149	− 5	...	...
450	400	5.54	Preston Nth E	430	+ 10	...	...
105	103	16.50	Primary Hlth Pr	103	...	...	...
34	32	3.06	Raphael Zrn	34	...	4.6	21.3
105	100	1.07	Revelation Pic	100	...	...	...
18	15	10.60	Riceman Insce	16	...	...	...
4½	3	3.60	Rushmere Wynne	4	...	...	...
1¾	0¾	0.14	Rush Wyn Wrts	1½	...	...	...
133	48	4.94	SCS Satellite	48	...	...	...
31	18	2.16	Scotswood Inds	31	...	4.0	29.3
58	28		Scott Pride	33	− 7	...	...
320	260	14.90	Scruttons	310	− 10	5.2	12.6
60	33	2.04	Self Sealing	35	...	...	...
3	2		Silkbarn	3	...	...	...
10¼	7	59.90	SkyePharma	9	...	...	...
9	6	0.97	SkyePhrma B Wts	8	...	...	...
586	490	138.20	Southern News	586	+ 7	3.4	15.4
66	43		Southern Vectis	66	+ 8	...	...
615	98	92.80	Stanford Rook	505	− 95	...	...
185	70	17.70	Surrey Fr Inns	175	+ 5	1.4	20.6
1005	605	33.10	TRACKER Netwk	625	− 40	...	...
59	36	3.84	Tele Cred Eur	38	− 8	...	...
53	28		Tele Cred Wrts	28	− 8	...	...
120	91	17.30	Toad	103	− 3	...	...
180	155		Trinity Care	175	...	1.1	...
170	165		Trinity Care Pf	170	...	...	...
56	36	215.40	Trocadero	51	+ 1	...	...
115	40		Univent	40	...	...	...
575	210	7.17	Utd Auctions	403	...	1.2	...
805	585	13.50	VDC	805	...	3.0	14.2
14	7¾	35.70	Versailles Grp	13½	...	...	22.0
325	125	8.25	Viewinn	275	− 20	...	...
428	133		Voss	363	− 40	...	...
14	7		Wedderburn Secs	7	− 2	...	...
5	3		Wedd Secs Wrnts	4	+ 1	...	...
26	13	5.25	Western Selectn	15	− 1	...	59.7
6	5	0.31	Western Sel Wrt	5	...	...	...
33	15	2.63	Westmount Engy	28	...	...	...
93	50	6.20	W'chester M Md	56	...	...	...
160	130		Wynnslay Props	130	− 10	...	...
300	115	26.30	Zergo	285	...	...	...

Business failures rise 15%

By Janet Bush, economics correspondent

BUSINESS failures in Britain were 15 per cent higher in the first three months of this year compared with the same period in 1995, according to Dun & Bradstreet, the business information group.

Failures totalled 11,430 (9,909), the first time for three years that Dun & Bradstreet's figures showed a year-on-year increase. Philip Mellor, senior analyst at D&B, said: "The marked increase in Britain's business failure rate reflects the difficulties companies face trading out of a recession and operating on low profit margins in a competitive market."

There were wide variations between regions. London saw a 3.1 per cent drop in failures, while failures in the West Midlands fell by 8.6 per cent. However, the East Midlands saw a 57.6 per cent rise.

informative:

With effect from 1 May 1996 the following rates will apply:

Mortgage Rate

(for mortgages taken out after 12 March 1995 with no interest rate discount)

	From	To
All loan amounts	6.95% pa	6.69% pa

Equity Release Loan

(for loans taken out after 12 March 1995 with no interest rate discount)

If a mortgage is held with First Direct or no other mortgage is outstanding on your property:

	From	To
All loan amounts	6.95% pa	6.69% pa

If a mortgage is held which is not with First Direct:

	From	To
All loan amounts	8.95% pa	8.69% pa

first direct

First Direct is a division of Midland Bank plc

Member HSBC Group

Water, water everywhere, but not much competition

GRAHAM SEARJEANT

Here is the latest political promise to privatised business. "There is no question of existing contracts being cancelled against the wishes of the parties to them." Actually, this is not the latest message. It came on Friday when Clare Short, the Shadow Transport Secretary, cheerfully ran over Labour's previous policy and loyally waved the green flag for next month's sale of Railtrack. Labour will do anything to appear responsible and that usually means pledging to do as little as possible.

The very latest message came from John Major on Saturday and is scheduled to be followed up today by John Gummer, who often has to grit his teeth as firmly as Clare Short is learning to do. He will tell water consumers, and more than a million of us who own shares in water companies, that the Government plans to tear up the 25-year licences it issued just before privatisation in 1989. Instead, it will promote the sort of "new era" of competition that has already done so much to multiply complaints against British Gas.

The Prime Minister has different political priorities. He is desperate for radical new initiatives. Last year he promised nuclear privatisation. This spring, he aims to neutralise Labour's free hits against water privatisation with a regime to curb the fat cats. At this stage, it is only safe to predict that more jobs will be lost and boardroom pay will rise steeply as companies rush to recruit expensive outsiders to redraw their strategies. There, I fancy, similarities to gas and power will end. In theory, there is already scope for competition in water, recently expanded. But it has not had much impact because would-be rivals have to supply through their own pipes. Competition has therefore been limited to supplying new housing estates on borders between companies or big new industrial plants such as Toyota's.

One reason is that water is not uniform like electricity. Billions have been spent since 1989 to bring supplies up to proper standards of purity. That task is now largely complete but maintaining pure water requires eternal vigilance.

If water is deemed to be acommodity, it could be delivered via other people's pipes, just as BT, British Gas and regional electricity companies have to act as a common carrier for competitors. No company would have any incentive to improve water quality standards above the minimum statutory limit. But there should be little argument over non-potable water for industry.

The second bar to competition is that there is no national water grid. Thames can now move water all round London. Companies in dry parts of the country avoid supply problems thanks to schemes to move supplies around their regions. But Bradford could not use supplies available from Kielder Water in Northumbria. Still less could "cheap water" from Kielder, or from Welsh valleys, be piped to customers suffering high bills and strained supplies in the South West.

Constructing a national bulk pipeline grid would cost billions which neither customers nor water companies would care to fund. Using river systems would be a commercial and accounting nonsense. So competition would still be between neighbours, prepared to risk building a link to next door's network.

Benefits to all but the biggest customers are therefore likely to be slim. To start with, most of the average household bill is for sewage, where investment is building up again to satisfy EU requirements, and has to be paid for. No competition there. The cost of local distribution is also a far greater proportion of the price of water than of gas or electricity. They would still be monopoly common carriers, whose charges would reflect local costs. According to Ofwat, the biggest costs are the relative length of the distribution system and the amount of pumping needed. In other words, hilly rural areas, such as the South West, are bound to have higher costs. If water is pumped between rival reservoirs, it would still have to go through local treatment as well.

Would-be competitors would presumably pay local distribution charges based on prices regulated to allow a standard rate of return. Unless competitors are allowed to cherry-pick richer customers, this could yield surprising results. Ofwat figures show that South West has the lowest return on capital, about half the national average. Without the inevitable regulatory fix, competition could raise prices there.

Ofwat aims to stop cuts in charges to bulk users being loaded on to domestic customers. Some should genuinely benefit, provided they have meters. Southern Water, for instance, could surely undercut small high-cost suppliers who have enclaves in Kent and Sussex. South Staffordshire might undercut Severn Trent in Wolverhampton. Others would seek to undo contracts to supply bulk water at cost to other companies and serve the customers direct. But this might not go far.

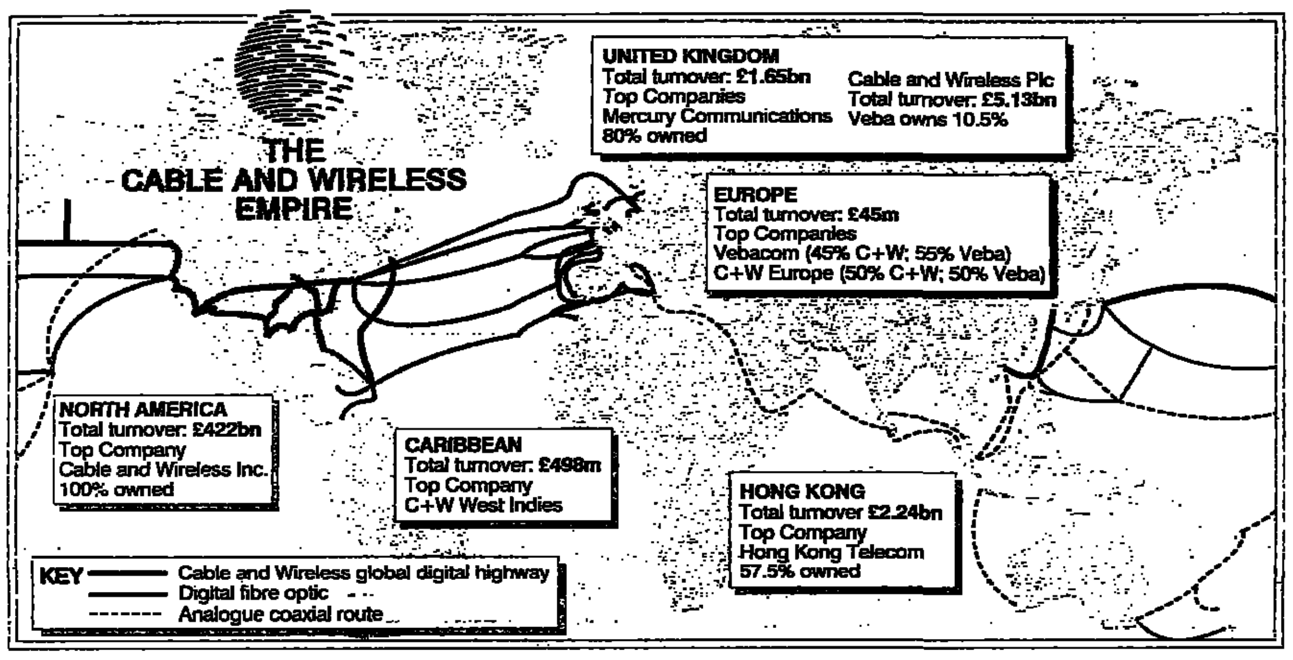
Customers would complain bitterly if hosepipes were banned when their company was supplying water elsewhere. And now new reservoirs would be built without guarantees. It would still be more economic for Yorkshire Water to build a pipeline up to Kielder than for Northumbrian to build one down.

In the short run, water investors may have relatively little to fear from the presently slim political risk of the Government being re-elected. The average customer has even less to gain. Rather, the threat of change is likely to accelerate takeovers, as in electricity.

Further ahead, this lack of impact could provoke a future Tory government to take more extreme measures to force competitive supply. If the water regulator is given a statutory duty to promote competition, reform could eventually follow the same destructive path as in gas.

Tom Walker and **Eric Reguly** look into the courtship of BT and Cable and Wireless

On the road to a rocky marriage?



Cable and Wireless and British Telecom are courting each other again, but do not expect to see a fast marriage. The romance has just begun and it will take some time before each feels comfortable enough to take the leap.

The companies are saying privately that, given the enormous complexities of combining operations, joint ventures and alliances in some 50 countries, an agreement in principle may not be reached for months.

Assuming that AT&T, or any other phone giant with international ambitions, do not spoil their plans, it is possible that the merger will not reach completion within the year. At that stage, another problem will begin to present itself. Hong Kong will be on the verge of coming under Chinese rule, clouding the future of Hong Kong Telecom.

The company, which is 57.5 per cent owned by C&W, is the driving force behind BT's pursuit of C&W. Hong Kong Telecom sits on the doorstep of the world's biggest potential market: if it were not in C&W's portfolio, the idea of joining forces with C&W would not even occur to BT.

Analysts are becoming increasingly concerned over the future of Hong Kong Telecom, without which C&W would be virtually moribund. Last year, it accounted for two-thirds of C&W's operating profits of £1.2 billion. In the light of China's twitchiness over Taiwan and Peking's mounting rhetoric against Western interference, observers of the company are tending towards gloomier forecasts.

Negative speculation about Hong Kong Telecom could, at worst, cause BT to drop the idea of merging with C&W. Certainly, it would convince BT to value C&W shares at a lower level than C&W is seeking. A British diplomat asked: "Will it be possible after 1997 for a telecoms outfit with its roots in the UK to be the prime supplier in Hong Kong?"

Hong Kong Telecom's monopoly on the Hong Kong domestic market has been taken away already. From next year it will be competing with Wharf's new T&T, Hutchison Telecom, which owns half of Britain's Orange mobile phone network, and New World Telephone in the territory. Brokers on the Hong Kong market are blaming fluctuations in the company's shares on concern over its ability to compete.

International calls, however, account for 60 per cent of Hong Kong Telecom's revenues and it will have exclusive rights to this franchise until 2006 if the Chinese authorities do not interfere. Since 40 per cent of international direct dialling income comes from calls to China, there is mounting speculation that Peking might do just that. The British diplomat said: "There is a great deal of ignorance over how China will operate here."

Chris Patten, the Governor of Hong Kong, last week worried aloud that China was fully prepared to "tear out the roots of democracy" in the territory and substitute its own tried and trusted methods. This sense of fear is now affecting the market place, and even the Portfolio column of the *South China Morning Post* is warning of the perils of holding Hong Kong Telecom stock.

Earlier this month, Citic, one of the big "red chip" Chinese-controlled holding companies operating in Hong Kong, ominously sold 208 million shares in Hong KongTelecom, reducing its stake to just over 10 per cent and raising £270 million. The *South China Morning Post* said: "We don't compliment the investors who took the Telecom shares off Citic's hands. We view Telecom as a dead investment because of changes in the local and international telecommunications scene."

Analysts are now asking the obvious question: If major Chinese interests are getting out of Hong Kong, why does BT want to get in? In an ideal world of respect for the Basic Law, Hong Kong Telecom should be in a good position to make vast and profitable inroads into the Chinese fixed and mobile phone markets. But in Hong Kong these days it is difficult to find believers in this post-1997 scenario. The company itself is putting on a brave face, preferring to concentrate on analysts' predictions that this year, at least, its profits should grow by about 15 per cent. At last year's annual meeting — which lasted ten minutes — not one shareholder asked a question of Lord Young of Graffham, then Hong Kong Telecom's chairman, about the company's future. And around the same time *Asian Business* magazine voted Hong Kong Telecom the most admired company in Hong Kong.

Meanwhile, Hong Kong Telecom is attempting to slim its workforce of 14,000, the third largest in Hong Kong. Senior executives, some of whom earn more than a million Hong Kong dollars per year (£90,000) are being offered cash-heavy redundancy packages. In all, 2,500 jobs should be cut over the next three years.

Judging Hong Kong Telecom's future is just one of the problems surrounding the merger of C&W and BT. Another is convincing the 50 or so countries in which C&W operates that the merger would not constitute a change in ownership.

The governments of these countries have the right to revoke the C&W operating licences and auction them if control changes.

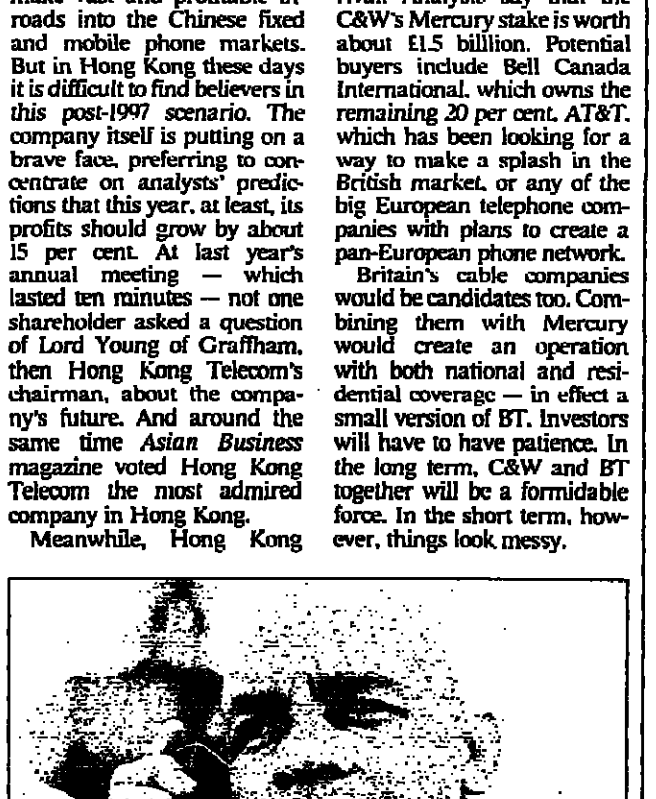
That is one of the main reasons C&W and BT are pursuing the idea of a reverse takeover, in which C&W would become the technical owner of the much larger BT, instead of the other way around.

C&W could then make the argument that the company, and therefore its operating licences, have remained intact. Whether the authorities in Sierra Leone and Diego Garcia will buy this line of thinking is open to question.

Another advantage of a reverse takeover is that it would save BT several billion pounds. If BT acquires C&W, it would be forced under the rules of the Hong Kong stock exchange to buy out the minority shareholders of Hong Kong Telecom. If C&W acquires BT, there would be no such obligation.

Back in Britain, the hurdles loom less large but will nonetheless take a lot of management time to sort out. C&W would have to sell its 80 per cent stake in Mercury Communications, BT's main competitor, before the merger would be allowed to proceed. C&W would also have to unload its half interest in Mercury One-2-One, the mobile phone company, because BT owns 60 per cent of Cellnet, its rival. Analysts say that the C&W's Mercury stake is worth about £1.5 billlion. Potential buyers include Bell Canada International, which owns the remaining 20 per cent. AT&T, which has been looking for a way to make a splash in the British market, or any of the big European telephone companies with plans to create a pan-European phone network.

Britain's cable companies would be candidates too. Combining them with Mercury would create an operation with both national and residential coverage — in effect a small version of BT. Investors will have to have patience. In the long term, C&W and BT together will be a formidable force. In the short term, however, things look messy.



C&W would have to shed its Mercury One-2-One stake

Lloyds Bank Interest Rates for Personal Customers

OVERDRAFTS

	% Per Month	% APR*
Classic Account Standard, Current Account Standard**, Choice Account and High Interest Cheque Account Standard	1.45	18.8
Budget Account	1.50	19.5
Unauthorised**	2.00	26.8

LOANS

	% Per Month	% APR*
Professional Studies Loan Scheme	0.70	8.7
Graduate Personal Loan	0.72	8.9

*The APR does not take into account any additional charges (eg arrangement fees/securities charges/monthly fees) which may be applicable.

**This rate will also be applied by Lloyds Private Banking Limited.

SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

Investment Account	Annual Option		Monthly Option	
	Gross %	Net %	Gross %	Net %
£100,000+	5.25	3.94	5.13	3.85
£ 50,000+	5.00	3.75	4.89	3.67
£ 25,000+	4.65	3.49	4.55	3.41
£ 10,000+	4.25	3.19	4.17	3.13
Below £10,000	0.50	0.38	0.50	0.38

30 Day Savings	Annual Option		Monthly Option	
	Gross %	Net %	Gross %	Net %
£25,000+	3.65	2.74	3.59	2.69
£10,000+	3.40	2.55	3.35	2.51
£ 5,000+	3.10	2.33	3.06	2.30
Below £5,000	0.50	0.38	0.50	0.38

Instant Savings Account	Annual Option		Monthly Option	
	Gross %	Net %	Gross %	Net %
£25,000+	3.55	2.66	3.49	2.62
£10,000+	3.20	2.40	3.15	2.36
£ 5,000+	2.75	2.06	2.72	2.04
£ 500+	2.40	1.80	2.37	1.78
Below £500	1.00	0.75	1.00	0.75

Tessa	6.50% Tax-Free

Deposit Account	Half-yearly Option		Monthly Option	
	Gross %	Net %	Gross %	Net %
£1+	0.25	0.19	0.25	0.19

High Interest Cheque Account	Gross %	Net %
£50,000+	2.50	1.88
£25,000+	2.35	1.76
£10,000+	2.25	1.69
£ 5,000+	1.50	1.13
Below £5,000	1.00	0.75

Treasurers Account	Gross %	Net %
£25,000+	3.25	2.44
£10,000+	3.05	2.29
£ 5,000+	2.60	1.95
£ 500+	2.40	1.80
Below £500	1.00	0.75

Headway and Young Savers	Gross %	Net %
£500+	2.40	1.80
£250+	2.25	1.69
£100+	2.00	1.50
£ 50+	1.50	1.13
Below £50	1.00	0.75

Asset Management Service Investment Account	Gross %	Net %
£100,000+	5.13	3.85
£ 50,000+	4.89	3.67
£ 25,000+	4.55	3.41
£ 10,000+	4.17	3.13
Below £10,000	2.37	1.78

Interest rates may vary from time to time. This notice lists current rates.
GROSS – The annual interest rate before deduction of basic rate income tax (where applicable).
NET – The annual interest rate after deduction of basic rate income tax; certain customers may be able to reclaim the tax from the Inland Revenue.
TAX-FREE – The annual interest rate when interest is exempt from income tax.
Interest is normally paid at the net rate, unless the Account falls within an exempt category or the Account-holder qualifies to receive interest gross.

These rates of interest apply with effect from 1 April 1996

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RADIO CHOICE

Computers in the firing line

The Afternoon Shift. *Radio 4, 3.00pm*

There has been a seriously under-reported outbreak of French nationalism. Five thousand protesters outside the Bastille in Paris have made a bonfire of American and Japanese personal computers. With a 15 per cent rating in a public opinion poll, the Micro Go Homers are making a bid for official party status. Their manifesto is the rescue of French culture, an objective achievable only through the expulsion of all imported computers from French soil. Microsoft France will fight back with *Fenêtre France*, using PCs programmed exclusively with French icons plus an inbuilt random non-cooperation factor designed to appease militant nationalists. Alice Furlaud's report for *The Afternoon Shift* is dated April 1.

Cultural Baggage: The Suit. *Radio 3, 8.55pm.*

Nobody mentions comfort in this kaleidoscopic picture of why we wear suits. The image of authority is there, as you'd imagine. And the suggestion of power. And peacock splendour, and nobility. There's the man whose jacket has a bright blue lining, invisible except when the jacket is thrown over his chair to give the office a cheerful air. An image consultant suggests that election-conscious Tories should begin to loosen up and to stop looking complacent all the time, whereas Liberal Democrats need to look more like a party fit to govern. But, as I said earlier, nobody in this programme even mentions comfort.

Peter Davalle

RADIO 1

FM Stereo. **4.00am** Charlie Jordan **6.30** Chris Evans **9.00** Simon Mayo and at **11.00** Confessions **12.00** Lisa I'Anson **2.00** Nicky Campbell **4.00** Clive Warren **7.00** Evening Session **9.00** In Concert **10.00** Mary Anne Hobbs **Midnight** Wendy Lloyd

RADIO 2

FM Stereo **4.00am** Alex Lester **6.00** Sarah Kennedy **6.15** Pause for Thought **7.30** Wake Up to Wogan **9.15** Pause for Thought **9.30** Ken Bruce **11.30** Jimmy Young **2.00pm** Debbie Thrower **3.30** Ed Stewart **5.05** John Dunn **7.00** Hubert Gregg **7.30** Malcolm Laycock and at **8.30** Big Band Special **9.00** Humphrey Lyttelton **10.00** Radio Days. Music from the BBC Big Band **10.30** The Jamesons **12.05am** *Digby Fairweather* with Jazz Notes **1.00** Steve Madden **3.00** Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports, incl **5.45** Wake Up to Money **6.00** The Breakfast Programme **6.55, 7.55** racing preview **8.35** The Magazine, incl **10.35** News from Europe; **11.30** News, Food News **12.00** Midday with Mar, incl **12.34pm** Moneycheck, and at **1.15** Entertainment News **2.05** Ruscoe on Five **3.45** Entertainment News **4.00** John Inverdale **5.45** Entertainment News **7.00** News Extra **7.35** Wembley Winners 1986 — Liverpool v Everton **8.00** The Monday Match Liverpool v Newcastle **10.00** News Talk **11.00** Night Extra **11.15** The Financial World Tonight **12.05am** The Other Side of Midnight **2.05** Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am Sandy Warr **7.00** Simon Bates **10.00** Jonathan King **12.00** Tommy Boyd **2.00pm** Anna Raeburn **4.00** Scott Chisholm **7.00** Sean Bolger **10.00** James Whale **1.00-6.00am** Ian Collins

WORLD SERVICE

All times in BST. **5.00am** Newsdesk **5.30** Europe Today **6.00** Newsday **6.30** Europe Today **7.00** News **7.15** Soundbyte **7.30** World of Music **8.00** News **8.15** Off the Shelf **8.30** The Vintage Chart Show **9.00** News in German **9.15** Fine Tuning **9.45** Mastersingers **10.00** News **10.05** Business **10.15** Anything Goes **10.45** Sport **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** BBC English **11.45** Off the Shelf **12.00** Newsdesk **12.30** Omnibus **1.00** News in German **1.15** Britain Today **1.30** World of Music **2.00** Newshour **3.00** News **3.05** Outlook **3.30** John Peel **4.00** News **4.15** BBC English **4.30** News in German **5.00** Europe Today **5.30** Business **5.45** Britain Today **6.00** News **6.10** World Today **6.25** Take Five **6.30** News in German **7.00** Newsdesk **7.30** In Good Voice **8.00** Newshour **9.00** News Summary **9.01** Outlook **9.25** Words of Faith **9.30** Multitrack: Hit List **10.00** News **10.05** Business **10.15** *Britain Today* **10.30** Medicine Cabinet **10.45** Arty Facts **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** World Today **11.45** Sport **Midnight** News **12.10am** Take Five **12.15** On the Move **1.00** Newsdesk **1.30** Global Concerns **1.45** Britain Today **2.00** Newsdesk **2.30** Outlook **3.00** Newsday **3.30** Omnibus **4.00** News **4.30** Europe Today

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths **6.00** Mike Read **9.00** Henry Kelly **12.00** Margaret Howard **2.00pm** Concerto. Berwald (Piano Concerto in D) **3.00** Jamie Crick **6.00** Newsnight **6.30** Sonata. Mozart (Piano Sonata in D) **7.00** Celebrity Choice (r) **8.00** Evening Concert **10.00** Michael Mappin **1.00am** Mel Cooper

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Jono **9.00** Richard Skinner **12.00** Graham Dene **4.00pm** Nicky Horne **7.30** Paul Coyte **10.00** Mark Forrest **2.00-6.00am** Robin Banks

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air. Tchaikovsky (Souvenir de Florence); Haydn (Piano Trio in C); Vaughan Williams (Norfolk Rhapsody No 1); Kraus (Symphony in D); **8.05** Schumann (Overture, Genoveva); Rebecca Clarke (Viola Sonata)
9.00 Morning Collection with Paul Gambaccini. Pachelbel (Canon and Gigue in D); Gershwin (Bess you is my woman now; My man's gone now, Porgy and Bess); Tchaikovsky (Suite No 1 in D minor)
10.00 Musical Encounters. Bach (Keyboard Concerto in D); Chopin (Scherzo No 1 in B minor); Whettam (Partita); **11.15** *Artist of the Week*: Dawn Upshaw, soprano, sings Delage (Quatre poèmes hindous); Haydn (Symphony No 94 in G, Surprise); Ravel (Alborada del gracioso, Miroirs)
12.00 Composer of the Week. Franz Schubert (Sonata Movement in B flat; Die Advokten; Kyrie in D minor; Symphony No 1 in D)
1.00pm BBC Lunchtime Concert, live from St John's, Smith Square, London. Brindisi Quartet performs Mozart (String Quartet in A); Bartók (String Quartet No 3)
2.00 The BBC Orchestras: BBC Philharmonic in Oman, with Kathryn Stott, piano. Elgar (Overture, Cockaigne); Beethoven (Piano Concerto No 4 in G); Tchaikovsky (Symphony No 4 in F minor)
3.45 Jean-Paul Fouchécourt. The early-music tenor, with the lutenist Pascal Monteilhet, performs airs de cours and Purcell songs (r)
4.30 Blue Angels, Blue Devils. Brian Morton explores how the Nazis used jazz music as wartime propaganda (4/6) (r)
5.00 The Music Machine: Music — a User's Manual. The first of five programmes this week on musical terminology examines the essential components of melody, harmony and rhythm
5.15 In Tune, presented by Natalie Wheen. Chopin (Etude in C); **6.03** Haydn (Piano Trio in G); Shostakovich (String Quartet No 8)
7.30 Mozart in Prague. Raymond Leppard introduces a personal selection. Mozart (Overture, Don Giovanni; Dix German Dances; Concert aria, Bella mia fiamma; Ah, fuggi il traditor; In quali eccessi . . . Mi tradi, Don Giovanni, Act 1; Symphony No 38 in D, Prague: Scottish Chamber Orchestra)
8.55 Cultural Baggage: The Suit. See Choice
9.15 The Formidable Virtuoso Herr Biber. In the first of three recitals this week, Monica Huggett and Trio Sonnerie perform the second and third sonatas from Biber's 1681 set of *Sonatae violino solo* and, with bass Giles Davies, the motet Nisi dominus (r)
10.00 Ensemble. Brahms (Clarinet Quintet in B minor)
10.45 Mixing It. Highlights from the third LMC/New Aurua concert
11.30 Composer of the Week. Edmund Rubbra (r)
12.30-1.00am Jazz Notes, with Digby Fairweather

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW) **6.00** News; weather **6.10** Farming Today **6.25** Prayer for the Day **6.30** Today, incl **6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30** News **6.55, 7.55** Weather **7.25, 8.25** Sports News **7.45** Thought for the Day **8.40** Shelf Lives: Prozac **8.58** Weather
9.00 News 9.05 Start the Week
10.00-10.30 News; Big Bang (FM)
10.00 Daily Service (LW only) from the Church of St James the Greater, Leicester
10.15 This Sceptr'd Isle (LW only)
10.30 Woman's Hour. Judith Miller talks about her novel which exposes the world of antiques
11.00 News 11.30 Money Box Live: 0171-580 4444
12.00 News; You and Yours
12.25pm Counterpoint. Ned Sherrin chairs the general-knowledge music quiz **12.55** Weather
1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke
1.40 The Archers (r) **1.55** Shipping Forecast
2.00 News; Talking. Rachel Joyce's first play takes place in Sicily. With Sarah-Jane Fenton, Jilly Bond and Kenneth Cranham (r)
3.00 The Afternoon Shift. See Choice
4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope. Lynne Walker finds out how conductors today compare with the likes of Beecham and Bernstein
4.45 Short Story: April Fool. Written and read by Carl Tighe
5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast **5.55** Weather
6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.30 The News Quiz (r)
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers
7.20 The Food Programme. Derek Cooper samples the cordon bleu cookery on offer at Newcastle United's football ground (r)
7.45 Monday Play: Planet of Ashes, by David Zane Mairowitz is loosely based on *Shivitti: A Vision* by Ka-Tzetnik 135633. Conventional psychotherapy has not helped Dr Gorelik, a survivor of the Auschwitz concentration camp, to resurrect and thereby bury the past. With Warren Mitchell and Frances Tomelty (r)
8.45 How Music Can Change the World (3/4)
9.30 Kaleidoscope (r) **9.59** Weather
10.00 The World Tonight, with Robin Lustig
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Stalin's Nose, by Rory MacLean. Read by Alistair McGowan (1/10)
11.00-11.30 A Week in the Life (FM only). Ian is overseeing the installation of electricity into South African townships (r)
11.00 Education Matters (LW only)
11.30-12.00 Uncle Dynamite (FM only), by P.G. Wodehouse. Second of a six-part adaptation by Richard Usborne. With Richard Briers and Hugh Grant (r)
11.30 Today in Parliament (LW)
12.00 News, incl **12.27** Weather
12.30 The Late Book: Devil in a Blue Dress, by Walter Mosley. Read by Paul Winfield (1/10)
12.48 Shipping Forecast **1.00** As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. **RADIO 2.** FM 88.0-90.2. **RADIO 3.** FM 90.2-92.4. **RADIO 4.** FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. **RADIO 5 LIVE.** MW 693, 909. **WORLD SERVICE.** MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). **CLASSIC FM.** FM 100-102. **VIRGIN RADIO.** FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. **TALK RADIO UK.** MW 1053, 1089. Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Gillian Maxey, Rosemary Smith and Susan Thomson [illegible] من الارشيف

High jinks and low comedy in the Highlands

REVIEW

Matthew Bond

If someone one day tells Hamish Macbeth that his job as village bobbie is safe until Birnam Wood knocks on the door of the police house at Lochdubh... well, I shan't be the slightest bit surprised. There are some very strange people in Lochdubh.

In fact, if a couple of hundred Caledonian pines are going to hitch up their roots and start walking anywhere, it will be Lochdubh. But not yet awhile. Birnam Wood is staying put and PC Macbeth can sleep some more. For in the battle of the glens that Sunday night has suddenly become, **Hamish Macbeth** (BBC1) should put the auld alliance of the Finlays and Camerons in Dr Finlay (ITV) to flight quicker than you can say "clan uprising".

This will be jolly unfair, because *Dr Finlay* is excellent television — well acted and skilfully directed — but it is no match for the inhabitants of Lochdubh. *Hamish Macbeth*, you see, has a not very secret weapon: s-e-x. Last night, for instance, it was either Dr Cameron (Ian Bannen) in his combinations (actually, he was out of them but it's a long story) or the fair Alex (Valerie Gogan) in her scallop-edged semmit and drawers. The choice, as they say, was yours.

Mine was *Hamish Macbeth*, where it wasn't just the police house that was a-pulsing with passion. Given the early hour at which the programme is shown, much of this passion is, of necessity, tastefully sublimated but the intention must have been clear to anyone who saw Esme (Anne Lacey) tempt Rory (Brian Pettifer) with a "nice... slow... three-minute... poached egg".

In the village pub, things were similarly torrid and calorie-packed. Agnes (Barbara Rafferty), depressed by the news that her husband was "firing blanks", had slipped into something red and tight and was promising a handsome young stranger that he hadn't seen anything until he had seen her "sticky toffee pudding". Thankfully, he never did; it would have been incest, as the story turned out. Nevertheless, it was something of a relief when Macbeth's tongue sandwiches turned out to be two bits of white sliced with nothing worse than a bit of mad cow in-between.

Such relentlessly flirtatious fare could become tedious, were it not for some wonderful ensemble acting and generous dollops of highly photogenic Scottish scenery. The combination is such a winning one that you forgive the occasional lapse, such as a slapstick finale at sea that will have given the local coastguard nightmares for years to come and a comic subplot that I am sure was borrowed from somewhere else. Accidentally feeding his cattle with marijuana, rather than cattle-cake, had left Lachlan McCrae with "a byre full of very happy heifers". With the sort of bad news they have got coming, they'll probably start smoking it soon.

Life was never like that in post-war Tannochbrae, although for last night's opening episode of a new series of *Dr Finlay* you got the distinct impression that its makers rather wished it was. From the moment we began with a dream sequence of Dr Cameron stumbling through some misty Scottish countryside towards an alarming encounter with a mysterious hooded figure, it was clear this was to be no ordinary episode.

It was not. Alarmed by his dream and alarmed still further when he saw the same hooded figure on the back of a wagon of itinerant Irish potato pickers, Dr Cameron spent much of the episode doing a fair impersonation of Private Fraser in *Dad's Army*. "There are still some things you don't interfere with," he moaned. Such as Janet, I thought.

Meanwhile, back at the other subplot, Dr Finlay (David Rintoul) had got stuck at the t's in his medical dictionary. Was it typhoid or typhus, that the Brigadier was suffering from? Turned out to be a rare, non-infectious form of the latter. Good news for the diagnostic skills of Dr Finlay, but bad news for the Brigadier. He died of a heart attack shortly afterwards.

The two stories came together in traditional manner, with the villagers of Tannochbrae convinced that it was the Irish work-gang spreading typhus. "We wouldn't be the first tattie-howkers to be roasted alive," said Molly, as she showed Dr Cameron the big padlock with which the farmer locked his workers into his barn. And thanks to the good doctor they were not the last, either. By now on friendly terms even with the mysterious hooded figure (name of B'anshee, nice woman), Dr Cameron set about the torch-wielding mob with a pitchfork. "They haven't even got the decency to wear their black-shirts outside their semmits." Now there is a word you don't often see twice in a television review.

Anyway, the Irish were all gratitude and fiddles, Molly promised him "the high jinks" but Dr Cameron, being a television Scotsman, preferred to get very drunk and fall into several puddles. Which is how, dear reader, he and his combinations came to be parted. Told you it was a long story.

Finally, there was relief for those who have found Lois Lane's new haircut just a little too sensible to make **The New Adventures of Superman** (BBC1, Saturday) quite the fun it used to be. A red kryptonite laser turned her into Ultra Woman. "Does that mean I have to wear glasses?" she asked her permanently bespectacled beau, Clark Kent. Nope, but it did mean she had to wear just the cutest little caped outfit, complete with fuchsia pink face-mask. What else? Oh yes, she asked Clark to marry her and he said yes. Sensible chap.

- *Lynne Truss is on holiday*

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (22468)

7.00 BBC Breakfast News (Ceefax) (53739)

9.00 Breakfast News Extra (Ceefax) (7246468)

9.20 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (s) (7462130) **9.45 Kilroy** (s) (1522623) **10.30 Good Morning** (s) (10915)

12.00 News (Ceefax) and weather (6225333)

12.05pm Room for Improvement. Denise Waterman and Sean Rafferty presents the roaming DIY series (s) (8003623)

12.35 NEW **Going for Gold.** The ebullient Henry Kelly returns with another series of his entertaining general knowledge quiz with European contestants (s) (3154081)

1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (56826) **1.30 Regional News** and weather (94803178)

1.40 Neighbours (Ceefax) (s) (44905642)

2.00 Columbo (r) (Ceefax) (49997)

3.30 Playdays (r) (s) (1044536) **3.50 Bodger and Badger** (r) (s) (7061710) **4.00 Alvin and the Chipmunks** (r) (1700951) **4.10 Fudge** (Ceefax) (s) (2234623) **4.35 F.O.T.** (Ceefax) (s) (9833333) **5.00 Newsround** (Ceefax) (1346284) **5.10 Blue Peter** (Ceefax) (s) (1542888)

5.35 Neighbours (r) (Ceefax) (s) (496994)

6.00 News (Ceefax) and weather (36)

6.30 Regional News magazines (88)

7.00 That's Showbusiness. Mike Smith returns with the entertainment quiz. Joining him tonight are Lee Hurst, Susan Kyd, Les Dennis and Ainsley Harriott (Ceefax) (s) (4178)

7.30 Watchdog. A special programme featuring the best of this year's motor stories (Ceefax) (s) (72)

8.00 EastEnders. (Ceefax) (s) (3826)

8.30 Crime Beat. *Street robbery is the crime Britons fear the most, even though it is rare.* Martyn Lewis reports on the use of surveillance cameras (Ceefax) (s) (2333)

9.00 Nine O'Clock News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (5772)

9.30 Panorama. A look at Britain's relationship with one of the world's most autocratic regimes — Saudi Arabia. (Ceefax) (266975)

10.15 FILM: Splitting Heirs (1992) with Eric Idle, John Cleese and Catherine Zeta-Jones. Feeble comedy. Tommy Patel, brought up by Pakistani parents, discovers he is the heir to a dukedom. Directed by Robert Young (1219913)

11.40 Film 96 with Barry Norman. Barry Norman reviews Woody Allen's *Mighty Aphrodite*, with Helena Bonham Carter; *Broken Arrow*, with John Travolta; and *Sergeant Bilko*, with Steve Martin (Ceefax) (s) (746826)

12.10am The Road to Golgotha: The Betrayal. Rob Duncan visits the china clay quarries of Cornwall to reflect on the betrayal of Jesus by Judas (s) (5615802)

12.25 FILM: Young Dillinger (1965, b/w) with Nick Adams and Mary Ann Mobley. John Dillinger and his girlfriend are keen to get married. Desperate for cash, they attempt a daring raid on her father's business. Directed by Terry O. Morse (181260)

2.05 Weather (5188647)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes

The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video-PlusCode™ numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+™ handset. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. Videoplus+ (™), Pluscode (™) and Video Programmer are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.

BBC2

6.00am Open University: Physics (7070178) **6.25** Databases (7082913) **6.50** Ancient Athens (8066555) **7.15** See Hear Breakfast News (4150178)

7.30 Christopher Crocodile (r) (7796246) **7.35 Postman Pat** (r) (9979081) **7.50 Peter Pan and the Pirates** (r) (Ceefax) (s) (4123807) **8.15 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles** (r) (Ceefax) (7285081) **8.40 Blue Peter** (r) (Ceefax) (s) (8983265) **9.05 Mighty Max** (s) (7489807) **9.30 Activ8** (r) (Ceefax) (46739) **10.00 Playdays** (r) (s) (6224739) **10.25 Star Trek** (r) (s) (4529536)

10.50 The Tick (r) (1497888) **11.10 Randall and Hopkirk (Deceased)** (r) (8158333)

12.00 Great Crimes and Trials of the 20th Century (13913)

12.30pm Working Lunch (40555)

1.00 Postman Pat (r) (42159468)

1.15 Milestones in Science and Engineering (r) (42147623)

1.30 Brazilian Grand Prix (r) (s) (9008772)

2.10 Rugby Union — the Daily Mail Schools Day (s) (435197)

3.55 News (Ceefax) (2327352)

4.00 Today's the Day (s) (71) **4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook** (s) (3) **5.00 Esther: Is Cooking Dead?** (s) (5284)

5.30 The Wartime Kitchen and Garden. Head gardener Harry Dodson and cook Ruth Mott recreate the home front of the Second World War (r) (Ceefax) (1/8) (65)

6.00 FILM: Seven Faces of Dr Lao (1964) with Tony Randall and Barbara Eden. An oriental magician arrives in Abalone in the Old West and sets about righting wrongs. Directed by George Pal (Ceefax) (43665975)

7.35 The Phil Silvers Show. Classic American comedy (r) (b/w) (930994)

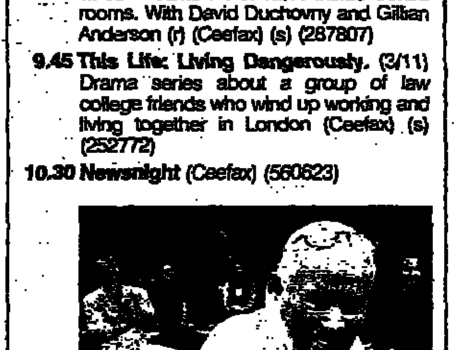
8.00 Horizon: Fallout from Chernobyl (Ceefax) (s) (720081)

8.50 Close Up. Memorable movie moments. Denis Healey chooses a scene from *Les Diaboliques* and Robert Rodriguez remembers the dream sequence from Hitchcock's *Spellbound* (s) (851333)

9.00 The X Files: Squeeze. Scully is assigned to track down a serial killer whose victims are all killed inside locked rooms. With David Duchovny and Gillian Anderson (r) (Ceefax) (s) (287807)

9.45 This Life: Living Dangerously. (3/11) Drama series about a group of law college friends who wind up working and living together in London (Ceefax) (s) (252772)

10.30 Newsnight (Ceefax) (560623)



Richard Wilson as teacher (11.15pm)

11.15 Acting With... Richard Wilson. Do You Believe It? (Ceefax) (s) (152888)

12.00 Midnight Hour (s) (94550)

12.30am-7.15 The Learning Zone

CHOICE

Great Crimes and Trials of the 20th Century

BBC2, noon

If Clifford Irving's hoax biography of the reclusive millionaire Howard Hughes was hardly the crime of the century it still makes a cracking good tale. Without offering any fresh glosses, and relying entirely on existing archive material, the film recalls the incident with clarity and pace. Towards the end of 1971 it was announced that the unknown Irving had written Hughes's life story with the subject's collaboration and approval. Irving produced letters from Hughes and spoke of more than 100 meetings. One of America's most reputable publishers paid Irving a lavish advance. Then Hughes held a press conference by telephone from the Bahamas, saying he had never met Irving and denying the book's authenticity. Irving retorted by sticking to his claim.

Horizon: Fallout From Chernobyl

BBC2, 8.00pm

When the Chernobyl nuclear reactor blew up ten years ago it released radioactivity 300 times greater than the Hiroshima bomb. One million children were exposed to the fallout. Yet science and the nuclear industry denied any danger to their health. A report from the International Atomic Energy Agency found no cause for alarm. But an epidemic of thyroid cancers in children suggested otherwise. When two British scientists, Dr Keith Baverstock and Professor Sir Dillwyn Williams, raised their concern, they were accused of spreading panic and fabricating evidence. Vivienne King's film shows how Baverstock and Williams have fought their corner against such adversaries as the United States Government. The full effects of Chernobyl, however, may not yet have emerged.

Cutting Edge: Stepfamilies

Channel 4, 9.00pm

The three families who feature in this film hardly constitute a representative sample. But their experiences amply illustrate the difficulties for both parents and children in trying to form new relationships. As one of the stepfathers says: "You cannot ask anyone else to love your children." Yet that is what step-parenting is about. For their part, children can end up confused and resentful. Shelley's marriage gave her three stepchildren and despite what appears to have been her best efforts, two of them rejected her. Alison and Amanda live with their stepmother but their natural mother lives near by. Although the two mothers try to get on, rows are frequent and the girls get caught in the middle. But step-parenting can work. Although they are only seven and five, Katie and Tia have it all worked out.

Acting With... Richard Wilson

BBC2, 11.15pm

Last week in this slot Prunella Scales conducted drama students through texts by Wilde, Stoppard and Pinter. Richard Wilson's workshop, by contrast, is based on improvisation, arguably a more difficult exercise. "The first thing I am looking for," he tells his charges, "is believability." And if acting is open and honest as well as believable, he says, the result can be pure beauty. Nobody pretends that Wilson's group of young actors reach that ideal every time. But his expert dissection of their attempts to get there undermines any notion that acting is a just matter of learning lines and not bumping into the furniture. Wilson suggests that one of the keys to a believable performance is thinking correctly. Another is the capacity to listen, advice that is ritually scorned by Wilson's most famous creation, Victor Meldrew.

Peter Waymark

HTV

6.00am GMTV (5905064)

9.25 Win, Lose or Draw (s) (7487449)

9.55 Regional News (Teletext) (6201888)

10.00 The Time... the Place (s) (2807081)

10.35 This Morning (44607081)

12.20pm Regional News (Teletext) (6221517)

12.30 News and weather (Teletext) (3157178)

12.55 Shortland Street (s) (3165197) **1.25 Coronation Street** (r) (Teletext) (5398739) **2.00 Home and Away** (Teletext) (s) (54094604) **2.25 Chain Letters** (Teletext) (s) (54013739) **2.50 Garden Calendar** (4342913)

3.20 News (Teletext) (7114468)

3.25 Regional News (Teletext) (7113739) **3.30 Rainbow Days** (s) (8242623) **3.40 Tots TV** (7067994) (r) (s) **3.50 Old Bear Stories** (r) (s) (8253739) **4.05 Scooby Doo** (r) (s) (4855820) **4.15 Monster Mania** (Teletext) (254333) **4.45 Art Attack** (r) (Teletext) (s) (9857913)

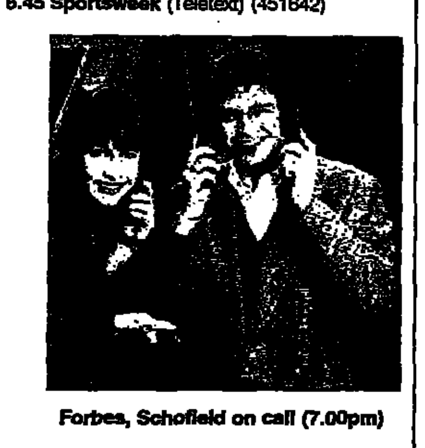
5.10 The List (9678410)

5.40 News and weather (Teletext) (912517)

6.00 Home and Away (r) (Teletext) (s) (492739)

6.25 HTV News (Teletext) (555772)

6.45 Sportsweek (Teletext) (451642)



Forbes, Schofield on call (7.00pm)

7.00 Talking Telephone Numbers. With hosts Phillip Schofield and Emma Forbes (s) (924)

7.30 Coronation Street. Josie and Sally both have big plans for the future (Teletext) (8)

8.00 World in Action. Examination of the future for the fire service which is facing severe budget cuts (Teletext) (s) (8994)

8.30 Kavanagh QC. (Last in series). Kavanagh QC defends a man and his sister accused of murdering their father and his second wife (Teletext) (s) (90604)

10.00 News at Ten and weather (Teletext) (18468)

10.30 Regional News (Teletext) (778265)

10.40 Crimestoppers Special (180410)

11.10 Song of an Exile. Charting one man's journey as he faces the events of the Holocaust through Jewish poems set to the contemporary music of Adrian Snell (r) (135536)

11.40 Good Advice (r) (731994) **12.10 Bushell on the Box** (s) (1095685) **12.40 Football Extra** (6544173) **1.25 Customs Classified** (6808260)

2.15 Jones and Jury (s) (8482734)

2.40 FILM: The Accomplice (1987) with Aurore Clement, Laurent Le Doyen and Ingrid Van Bergen. A women befriends a cat-burglar whilst he is relieving her of her possessions and deceides to accompany him on his next "assignment". Directed by Bettina Woernie (988937)

4.30 The Time... the Place (r) (s) (29821)

5.00 An Invitation to Remember (66604)

5.30 Morning News (99005)

HTV WALES

As HTV WEST except:

2.50pm-3.20 Cat Crazy (4342913)

5.10-5.40 On Stage, Back Stage (9678410)

6.25-7.00 Wales Tonight (643352)

10.40-11.40 Wales at the Wigmore (760536)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:

12.25-12.30 My Story (6239536)

12.55 Coronation Street (3165197)

1.25-1.55 Chain Letters (79581333)

1.55 Home and Away (68698888)

2.25 The West at Work (54097791)

2.55-3.20 A Country Practice (1917028)

5.10-5.40 Home and Away (9678410)

6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (12772)

10.40 The West at Work - Focus (180410)

11.10 Hunter (362178)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:

12.55 Home and Away (3165197)

1.25 Chain Letters (79581333)

1.55 A Country Practice (44986517)

2.20-3.20 Blue Heelers (3276642)

5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (9678410)

6.25-7.00 Central News (643352)

10.40 Sport in Question presented by Ian St John and Jimmy Greaves. With guests George Graham, Will Carling and Phil Tufnell (760536)

11.40 Hunter (510888)

1.25am Bushell on the Box (2533192)

2.45 Film: Dead Cert (730424)

4.15 Jobfinder (8906208)

5.20 Asian Eye (1584666)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:

12.55pm Chain Letters (3165197)

1.25 Home and Away (79581333)

1.55 A Country Practice (68698888)

2.25-3.20 Blue Heelers (5440081)

5.10 Home and Away (9678410)

5.37-5.40 *Three Minutes - the Listings* (197772)

6.00 Meridian Tonight (84)

6.30-7.00 Country Ways (4)

10.40 The Pier (235389)

11.05 The Listings (214642)

11.10 Meridian Works (135536)

11.40 Beyond Reality (731994)

5.00am Freescreen (66604)

S4C

Starts: 6.35 Fifteen to One (8030130) **7.00 The Big Breakfast** (46449) **9.00 Saved by the Bell: The New Class** (95517) **9.30 New Gamesmaster** (8754081) **9.55 California Dreams** (6068178) **10.20 Mork and Mindy** (6213623) **10.50 Dennis** (4908197) **11.05 Extreme** (3216333) **12.00 Right to Reply** (81951) **12.30pm Camberwick Green** (35623) **1.00 Slot Meithrin** (5377246) **1.35 Film: My Gal Sal** (34899212) **3.30 The Greatest** (62) **4.00 Jimmy's** (7) **4.30 Fruity Stories** (81) **5.00 5 Pump: Pwt a Parddu** (1339994) **5.10 5 Pump: Plell** (1335178) **5.20 5 Pump: Tochabant** (1265604) **5.30 Fifteen to One** (33) **6.00 Newyddion** (841081) **6.15 Heno** (369888) **7.00 Pobol Y Cwm** (770449) **7.25 Taro Naw** (921062) **8.00 Jabas** (6536) **8.30 Newyddion** (8371) **9.00 Auf Wiedersehen, Pet** (9081) **10.00 Sgorio** (3768536) **11.05 Roseanne** (134807) **11.35 NYPD Blue** (894352) **12.30am Seasiders** (65550)

CHANNEL

6.35am Fifteen to One (r) (Teletext) (s) (8030130)

7.00 The Big Breakfast (46449)

9.00 Saved by the Bell: The New Class (r) (s) (7475604) **9.25 New Gamesmaster** (r) (s) (7478791) **9.55 California Dreams** (r) (6068178) **10.20 Mork and Mindy** (r) (6213623) **10.50 Dennis** (4908197) **11.05 Extreme** (r) (Teletext) (s) (3216333)

12.00 Right to Reply (r) (Teletext) (s) (81951)

12.30pm Sesame Street (25062)

1.30 *A Box Full of Stories* (Teletext) (s) (68611739)

1.55 Oh Evaline. American musical short (r) (Teletext) (44984159)

2.20 FILM: The Card (1952, b/w) with Alec Guinness, Glynis Johns, Valerie Hobson, Petula Clark, Joan Hickson and Michael Hordern. Classic Ealing comedy, directed by Ronald Neame (Teletext) (943791)

4.00 Jimmy's (r) (s) (7) **4.30 Fifteen to One** (s) (81)

5.00 Keepers of the Kingdoms (r) (Teletext) (6159)

6.00 The Cosby Show. Rudy discovers a snake in the basement (r) (Teletext) (46)

6.30 Hollyoaks. Maddie is worried — is she the victim of an April Fool's joke or is it the stalker after her? (Teletext) (s) (6)

7.00 Channel 4 News (Teletext) (778807)

7.55 The Slot (944230)

8.00 Go Fishing. John Wilson tackles the huge conger eels that inhabit wrecks under the English Channel, and then tries for hand-sized Crucian carp that share with ducks a picturesque lake near Diss on the Norfolk-Suffolk border (Teletext) (s) (6536)

8.30 The Greatest. Profiles of Mary Rand, the athletics Golden Girl of the 1960s, and the cricketing legend Ian Botham. The contenders' claims are presented by panels chaired by Frances Edmonds and Danny Kelly (Teletext) (s) (8371)

Step-parenting realities (9.00pm)

9.00 Cutting Edge: Stepfamilies (Teletext) (s) (9081)

10.00 FILM: Wild at Heart (1990). An award-winning road movie starring Nicolas Cage and Laura Dern. Young lovers Cage and Dern are pursued through the Deep South by Dern's crazed mother and her gumshoe lover. Directed by David Lynch (Teletext) (s) (82161826)

12.20am The Late Late Show (Teletext) (s) (4400005)

1.25 FILM: Pool of London (1950, b/w) with Bonar Colleano, Susan Shaw and Renee Asherson. An Ealing semi-documentary thriller about a sailor whose smuggling activities lead him to become a murder suspect and go on the run from the police. Directed by Basil Dearden (1322111). Ends at **2.55**

SATELLITE AND CABLE

- **For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Vision supplement, published Saturday**

SKY ONE

7.00am Undun (99555) **9.00** Press Your Luck (8986449) **9.20** Love Connection (9195178) **9.45** The Oprah Winfrey Show (1750064) **10.40** Jeopardy! (2171178) **11.10** Sally Jessy Raphael (9672710) **12.00** Beechy (78994) **1.00pm** Hotel (85642) **2.00** Geraldo (53265) **3.00** Court TV (3352) **3.30** The Oprah Winfrey Show (5034826) **4.15** Undun (9681975) **5.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (4804) **6.00** The Simpsons (1623) **6.30** Jeopardy! (2975) **7.00** LAPD (5333) **7.30** M*A*S*H (8159) **8.00** Central Park West (24555) **9.00** Police Rescue (67831) **10.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (14178) **11.00** Melrose Place (79791) **12.00** Late Show with *David Letterman* (7613734) **12.45am** Trials of Rosie O'Neill (5824082) **1.30** Daddy Dearest (38192) **2.00** Hit Mix Long Play (9503460)

SKY NEWS

News on the hour.

9.30am The Book Show (3518826) **10.10** CBS 60 Minutes (4157333) **1.30pm** CBS News This Morning (16449) **2.30** Parliament Live (25371) **3.30** Parliament Live (3081) [illegible] **5.00** Live at Five (79791) **6.30** Tonight with Adam Boulton (91802) **7.30** Sportsline (882951) **8.10** CBS 60 Minutes (85791) (985212) **11.30** CBS Evening News (70791) **12.30am** ABC World News Tonight (74482) **1.30** Tonight (3368918) **2.10** CBS 60 Minutes (1862686) **3.30** Parliament Replay (61109) **4.30** CBS News (79314) **5.30** ABC News (31005)

SKY MOVIES

6.00am The Big Steal (1949) (8505333) **7.45** Cross Fire (1933) (803710) **8.15** Farewell My Lovely (1944) (28558062) **10.00** The "Hudsucker" Proxy (1994) [illegible] **12.00** Love Potion No 9 (1992) [illegible] **1.45pm** The Poseidon Adventure (1972) (987738) **3.45** [illegible] (1978) (585371) **5.15** Shadowlands (1993) (54412130) **7.30** E! Features (8555) **8.00** The Hudsucker Proxy (1994) (80739) **10.00** Robocop 3 (1993) (494505) **11.45** Blind Side (1993) (897772) **1.25am** This Boy's Life (1993) (842640) **3.15** Wizards (1977) (1096050) **4.30-6.00** At the Earth's Core (1976) (14869)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

4.00pm Bachelor Mother (1939) (52329352) **5.50** Random Harvest (1942) (20099178) **8.00** Red Sonja (1985) (99807) **10.00** Rocky IV (1985) (742401) **11.40** Raggedy Man (1981) (311975) **1.15am** The Spirit of the Beehive (1973) (793668) **2.55-4.05** Christmas in July (1940) (6739024)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

6.00am I See Ice (1938) (55488) **8.00** Big Wheels and Sailor (1979) (99739) **9.00** The Little Mermaid (1992) (77420) **10.00** Man Without a Star (1955) (86517) **12.00** For the First Time (1959) (58710) **2.00pm** Imitation of Life (1959) (96772) **4.00** Tommy the Toreador (1959) (31130) **5.30** The Living Daylights (1987) (593913) **8.00** Clifford (1994) (60642) **9.30** The Paper (1994) (88623) **11.30** Rubdown (1993) (36339) **1.00am** Man's Best Friend (1993) (99483) **2.30** The Mighty Quinn (1989) (116555) **4.10-6.00** For the First Time (1959) (384289)

THE DISNEY CHANNEL

Sky Movies Gold takes over from 10pm to 4am.

6.00am Quack Attack (49891807) **6.30** Chip 'n Dale Rescue Rangers (49229710) **7.00** Ducktales (10885449) **7.30** The New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh (10877284) **8.00** Quack Attack (93846159) **8.30** Chip 'n' Dale Rescue Rangers (93836130) **9.00** The Shnookums and Meat Funny Cartoon Show (93852710) **9.30** Quack Attack (75483979) **10.00** Ducktales (49210062) **10.30** Chip 'n Dale Rescue Rangers (93858994) **11.00** The New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh (42227994) **11.30** Quack Attack (42228623) **12.00** Walt Disney Presents (98633212) **1.00pm** FILM: Heidi — Part One (49231555) **3.00** Quack Attack (87102284) **3.30** Ducktales (80803197) **4.00** Chip 'n' Dale Rescue Rangers (80882604) **4.30** The Shnookums and Meat Funny Cartoon Show (80888888) **5.00** Boy Meets World (87174401) **5.30** Danger Bay (80802468) **6.00** Tarzan (80892081) **6.30** Dinosaurs (80883533) **7.00** Zorro (87194265) **7.30** FILM: Stepmonster (74614951) **9.00** The Making of Beauty and the Beast (42207130) **9.30-10.00** Dinosaurs (95263771)

EUROSPORT

7.30am Diving (92284) **9.00** Extreme Games (22884) **10.00** International Motorsports Report (18246) **11.00** Motorcycling (29710) **12.00** Formula 1 (69352) **1.00pm** Indycar (23623) **2.30** Free Climbing (80913) **3.30** Funboard (3623) **4.00** Bobsleigh (37555) **5.00** Aquabiking (6081) **5.30** Formula 1 (96826) **6.30** Football (3389) **7.00** Speedworld (66303555) **8.45** Speed (501352) **9.00** Car Racing (53081) **10.00** Football (63468) **11.00** Eurogolf Magazine (17975) **12.00-12.30am** Ski Surfing (70918)

SKY SPORTS

7.00am World Sport Special (13159) **7.30** Super League: Oldham v Wigan (87352) **8.30** Racing News (23062) **9.00** Aerobics (47642) **9.30** Skate International (976517) **12.30pm** Football Special — FA Cup Semi-finals (50710) **2.30** Rebel TV (6710) **3.00** Wrestlemania XII (465826) **6.00** Sports Centre (4739) **6.30** Tartan Extra (50536) **7.30** Monday Night Football (133555) **10.00** Sports Centre (35807) **10.30** Tartan Extra (80791) **11.30** Bushido — The Ultimate Fight (25265) **12.30am** Monday Night Football (977685) **3.00-3.30** Sports Centre (54666)

SKY SPORTS GOLD

10.00pm Dennis Taylor's Pots of Gold (3369933) **10.30** Bobby Charlton's Football Scrapbook — Great Cup Shocks (9154888) **12.00-1.00am** A to Z of Sport (4880260)

THE CHRISTIAN CHANNEL

4.00am Living Word **5.00** Kenneth Copeland **5.30** Kidz TV **5.45** Entertainment **6.15** Ulf Ekman **6.45-7.00** Music Television

SKY SOAP

7.00am Guiding Light (8193823) **7.55** As the World Turns (1773555) **8.50** Peyton Place (3825468) **9.20** Days of Our Lives (6884933) **10.10-11.00** Another World (3421772)

SKY TRAVEL

11.00am Globetrotter (7206265) **11.30** Australia (8064062) **12.30pm** Food of China (1696420) **1.00** Getaway (3425371) **1.30** Great Escapes (1695791) **2.00** Trailside (4553555) **2.30** Dive the World (6066401) **3.00** Globetrotter (4532062) **3.30** Around the World (7745284) **3.55-4.00** Holiday Shop (10724710)

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm D-Day: The Total Story (7297517) **5.00** The Red Empire (4558642) **6.00-7.00** Biography (1611739)

The Marx Brothers in *A Night at the Opera* (TNT, 9.00pm)

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

7.00pm FILM: The Andromeda Strain (35635933) **9.25** Robotech (2643604) **10.00** Close (8045642) **1.00am** FILM: The Andromeda Strain (40108734) **3.05-4.00** Friday the 13th (2514376)

TLC

9.00am Surprise Chefs (3398265) **9.30** Grow Your Own (1281420) **10.00** Two's Country (4247604) **10.30** Our House (3394449) **11.00** Room for Improvement (7479517) **11.30** Craftwise (7470246) **12.00** Julia Child (3378401) **12.30pm** The Frugal Gourmet (1272536) **1.00** Yan Can Cook (1325159) **1.30** Furniture to Go (1271807) **2.00** Our House (8719333) **2.30** Gardens Without Borders (6684284) **3.00** Screaming Reels (8738468) **3.30-4.00** This Old House (6856401)

UK GOLD

7.00am Angels (1328246) **7.30** Neighbours (1330081) **8.00** Sons and Daughters (3377772) **8.30** EastEnders (3308371) **9.00** The Bill (3390623) **9.30** The Sullivans (1270178) **10.00** Secret Army (1336265) **11.00** Bullseye (7471975) **11.30** Odd One Out (9465062) **12.05pm** Sons and Daughters (23062739) **12.30** Neighbours (1274994) **1.00** EastEnders (4718081) **1.35** Sykes (2020626) **2.15** Man About the House (3776371) **2.50** Three Up (3410130) **3.30** The Bill (6685159) **4.00** Casualty (7495555) **5.00** Every Second Counts (8706523) **5.45** 'Allo 'Allo! (9158555) **6.25** EastEnders (9347371) **7.00** Two Ronnies (4170401) **8.00** Bullseye (8731555) **8.30** Man About the House (8710062) **9.00** Casualty (4109913) **10.00** The Bill (2270517) **10.35** Top of the Pops (2831468) **11.15** Widows (8712555) **12.15am** FILM: The Night We Dropped a Clanger (60361043) **1.40-3.00** Shopping (36848482)

TCC

6.00am Tiny and crew (15130) **7.00** Sesame Street (78284) **8.00** Barney and Friends (68159) **8.30** Dinobabies (50130) **9.00** Art Attack (5422523) **9.15** The Very Best of No Naked Flames (7760791) **9.30** Ready or Not (88401) **10.00** Heartbreak High (64420) **10.30** Hang Time (70994) **11.00** Madison (54623) **11.30** Babysitters Club (65352) **12.00** Garfield (61246) **12.30pm** Felix the Cat (99517) **1.00** Earthworm Jim (11826) **1.30** Creepy Crawlers (98888) **2.00** Bill and Ted (1791) **2.30** Gravedale High (7468) **3.00** Eek the Cat (6046) **3.30** Pink Panther (2913) **4.00** California Dreams (1420) **4.30-5.00** Heartbreak High (7604)

NICKELODEON

6.00am Henry's Cat (1717772) **6.15** Blue (814604) **6.45** Toucan Tecs (8538178) **7.00** Batfink (2922791) **7.05** Turtles (1933333) **7.45** Rugrats/Doug (819159) **8.15** Aaahh!! (9385739) **8.30** Modern Life (21604) **9.00** Alvin (45284) **9.30** The Littlest Pet Shop (59975) **10.00** Banana Sandwich (12420) **11.00** Children's BBC (32284) **12.00** Magic School Bus (25420) **12.30pm** Grimmy (53791) **1.00** Denver (51212) **1.30** Visionaries (52062) **2.00** The Littlest Pet Shop (5975) **2.30** Children's BBC (40159) **3.30** Mighty Max (6197) **4.00** Santo Bugito (5604) **4.30** Rugrats/Doug (1888) **5.00** Sister (9555) **5.30** Mirror (5468) **6.00** Ren and Stimpy (5081) **6.30-7.00** Are You Afraid? (6333)

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Time Travellers (6675536) **4.30** Human Nature (6684420) **5.00** Treasure Hunters (8733913) **5.30** Voyager (6655772) **6.00** Paramedics (6685913) **6.30** Beyond 2000 (9372159) **7.30** World of Strange Powers (6672449) **8.00** Natural Born Killers (4187791) **9.00** Seawings (4107555) **10.00** Classic Wheels (4100642) **11.00-12.00** Subal Silent Armageddon (1335536)

BRAVO

12.00 Siege of Sydney Street (4254894) **2.00pm** Return of the Saint (4242159) **3.00** Danger Man (7478888) **4.00** FILM: They Came from Beyond Space (8729710) **6.00** Robin Hood (6889739) **6.30** Time Tunnel (9392913) **7.30** Sapphire and Steel (6869975) **8.00** Return of the Saint (4181517) **9.00** Starsky and Hutch (4194081) **10.00-12.00** FILM: The Player (7477159)

PARAMOUNT

7.00am Diff'rent Strokes (9791) **7.30** Entertainment (2517) **8.00** Benson (5739) **8.30** Wings (4246) **9.00** Soap (39913) **9.30** Taxi (73555) **10.00** Entertainment (33449) **10.30** The Vacant Lot (42197) **11.00** Kids in the Hall (77230) **11.30** Saturday Night Live (23807) **12.30pm** Benson (69314) **1.00** Wings (32444) **1.30** Laverne and Shirley (72550) **2.00** Entertainment (76463) **2.30** Saturday Night Live (38550) **3.30-4.00** The Vacant Lot (73550)

UK LIVING

6.00am Kilroy (5308371) **7.00** Esther (4593913) **7.30** The Young and the Restless (4300178) **8.30** Signs of the Times (8108246) **9.00** A Cook's Tour (8120791) **9.35** Kate and Allie (8628401) **10.05** Jerry Springer (8118826) **11.00** The Young and the Restless (8694791) **11.55** Brookside (4403352) **12.30pm** Dangerous Women (9975536) **1.25** Crosswits (8245994) **2.00** Agony Hour (2908975) **3.00** Live at Three (6283449) **4.00** Infatuation UK (2833130) **4.30** Crosswits (3537468) **5.05** Lingo (26098222) **5.30** Lucky Ladders (2853994) **6.00** Bewitched (2850807) **6.30** Brookside (6531371) **7.05** Food and Drink (9706997) **7.35** The Joker's Wild (8494739) **8.05** Street Legal (9815555) **9.00** FILM: Consenting Adult (3405975) **11.00-12.00** The Erogenous Zone (4579333)

FAMILY CHANNEL

5.00pm Road to Avonlea (1178) **6.00** Batman (8197) **6.30** Catchphrase (9449) **7.00** Trivial Pursuit (2807) **7.30** The Fall Guy (82393) **8.30** Only When I Laugh (6802) **9.00** Stay Lucky (71401) **10.00** Treasure Hunt (81888) **11.00** Sirens (98975) **12.00** The Fall Guy (26208) **1.00am** Batman (35258) **1.30** GP (25666) **2.00** The Black Stallion (29579) **2.30** Sirens (81886) **3.30** GP (22666) **4.00-5.00** Road to Avonlea (70463)

MTV

7.30am First Look (93420) **8.00** Morning Mix (891352) **11.00** US Top 20 Countdown (19468) **12.00** Greatest Hits (15410) **1.00pm** Music Non-Stop (87371) **3.00** Select MTV (78826) **4.00** Hanging Out (3772) **6.00** Dial MTV (5505) **6.30** Road Rules (1807) **7.00** Hit List UK (52979) **9.00** Unplugged (53517) **9.30** Amour (90265) **10.30** The State (73081) **11.00** Yo! MTV Raps (46772) **1.00am** Night Videos (1662669) **5.00** Morning Mix (37314)

VH-1

7.00am Power Breakfast (3424642) **9.00** Cafe VH-1 (4805046) **12.00** Heart and Soul (1617913) **1.00pm** The Vinyl Years (1693333) **2.00** Ten of the Best: Tina Turner (9120915) **3.00** Into the Music (1030517) **6.00** Happy Hour (1613197) **7.00** VH-1 for You (9542130) **8.00** VH-1 Album Chart (9562994) **10.00** Beat Club '80s (1569951) **10.30** Planet Rock Profiles: REM (9569771) **11.00** Tommy Vance is the Nightfly (3887807) **1.00am** Ten of the Best: David Cassidy (9110647) **2.00** Dawn Patrol

CMT EUROPE

Country music from **5am to 7pm on satellite, 24-hours on cable.** Including **5.00pm** Saturday Nite Dance Ranch **6.00-7.00** Big Ticket

ZEE TV

7.00am Jaagran (46144401) **7.30** Zee Presents (37537197) **9.00** Gujarati Serial: Narsaiyo (26233352) **9.30** Namaste India (25681913) **10.00** Urdu Serial: Chand Grehan (46152420) **11.00** Khana Khazana (68163130) **11.30** Hindi FILM: Nischaiy (85366053) **2.30pm** Buniyaad (83025807) **3.00** Flu (27974842) **3.30** Public Demand (91395623) **4.30** Junglee Toofan Tyre Puncture (83038371) **5.00** Zee Zone (27953159) **5.30** Akbar Birbal (83029623) **6.00** Usha Uthup Show (83026536) **6.30** Zee and U (83017888) **7.00** Parampara (85468913) **8.00** News (27975371) **8.30** Filmi Chakkar (27961178) **9.00** Hindi Movie: Kaalia (86992555) **11.30-12.00** Scandal (38982178)

CARTOON NETWORK/TNT

Continuous cartoons from 5am to 7pm, then TNT films as below.

7.00pm MGM's Big Parade of Comedy (1964) (10676555) **9.00 A Night at the Opera** (1936) (85348791) **11.00 Strange Brew** (1983) (28418352) **12.40am Village of Daughters** (1962) (43120043) **2.15-5.00 MGM's Big Parade of Comedy** (1964) (69374573)

CNN/QVC

CNN provides 24-hour news and QVC is the home shopping channel.

PERFORMANCE

7.00pm Cecil Taylor **8.00** Ana **8.30** Picasso **10.00** The Firebird in Rehearsal **11.00** Ana **12.00-1.00am** The Royal Ellington

BBC WORLD

News on the hour.

8.05am Ready When You Are, Mr Patel **9.30** Time Out: Top Gear **10.30** Time Out: Food and Drink **1.05pm** Correspondent **2.15** World Business Report **2.30** Newshour Asia and Pacific **3.30** Time Out: Earth Report **4.05** Ready When You Are, Mr Patel **5.30** Time Out: Tomorrow's World **8.05** Ready When You Are, Mr Patel **9.30** Time Out: Holiday **12.10am** Newsnight **4.05** Panorama

JOB CUTS 37
MERRILL LYNCH
EQUITIES TOLL
REACHES 375

BUSINESS

WATER, WATER 38
GRAHAM SEARJEANT
ON THE MIRAGE
OF COMPETITION

MONDAY APRIL 1 1996

BUSINESS EDITOR LINDSAY COOK

UK unemployment will continue to fall, says Shephard

BY PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BRITAIN is telling the world's major industrialised countries that UK unemployment will continue to fall and job prospects will improve.

A confidential document for the Group of Seven jobs summit, which opens formally today in Lille, France, sets out the UK's record on jobs and firmly holds out the prospect of a continuing improvement in employment. President Chirac of France will open the summit by underlining the value of flexible labour markets, the core of the UK Government's approach to jobs.

Although each G7 country's position paper has been circulated to member states, advisers have decided that the documents will not be published. Britain's document emphasises the value of labour market flexibility, voices confidence that job prospects will continue to improve in the UK and says that unemployment is on a clear downward trend.

Gillian Shephard, Employment and Education Secretary, who is heading the UK's delegation, is expected to underline this view to the conference today. Although the number of people out of work and claiming benefit rose last month by 6,800, the UK paper is in line with ministers' beliefs that the Government's labour market reforms mean that unemployment will largely continue to fall.

Treasury officials believe that UK unemployment, now 2.2 million, or 7.9 per cent, could fall below 6 per cent without any undue inflationary pressures.

The UK document argues that macro-economic stability — keeping inflation down and public finances settled — is the essential prerequisite for job creation. It also emphasises the importance of an efficiently-working labour market and of allowing competition to flourish.

With earnings growth largely stable in the UK, Britain's paper emphasises the importance of wage flexibility. It claims that "pay has an important impact on job creation" and maintains that decentralisation of pay between regions, companies and individual occupations maximises the scope for the creation of new jobs. Whitehall believes that the UK is approaching the summit in a position of considerable strength over jobs. Ministers and officials will be pressing the other G7 nations to endorse Britain's approach. However, the UK will acknowledge that individual countries must adapt the model of a flexible labour market to suit their own circumstances.

The UK document also underlines the Government's view of the importance of the merger last year of the education and employment departments as a key tool in creating an integrated approach to schools, training and work.

Britain is likely to be discomforted at the conference, however, by speakers, led by President Chirac, making reference to the idea of a "social clause" to be attached to international trade agreements to provide minimum workers' standards.

Power bidders braced for MMC's report

BY MELVYN MARCKUS, CITY EDITOR

THE Monopolies and Mergers Commission's report on PowerGen and National Power's takeover ambitions in the electricity sector, due to be delivered to Ian Lang, Trade and Industry Secretary on Thursday, is expected to signal a further wave of consolidation in the sector.

As *The Times* reported last month, the MMC is expected to give a qualified go-ahead to PowerGen's £1.9 billion takeover bid for Midlands Electricity and National Power's £2.8 billion bid for Southern.

Mr Lang subsequently granted the MMC a two-week extension of its deadline, set to expire on Thursday. The request for an extension by the MMC, whose chairman Graeme Odgers also chairs the investigating panel, was interpreted in the City as an indication that the MMC required the time to draft stringent conditions to the proposed amalgams.

A go-ahead for the PowerGen/Midlands and National Power/Southern takeovers would run counter to the arguments put forward to the Office of Fair Trading and the MMC by Stephen Littlechild, Director-General of Offer. Professor Littlechild was opposed to much of the takeover activity that engulfed the sector last year and is strongly opposed to vertical integration between power generation companies and the regional electricity companies (Recs) responsible for distribution.

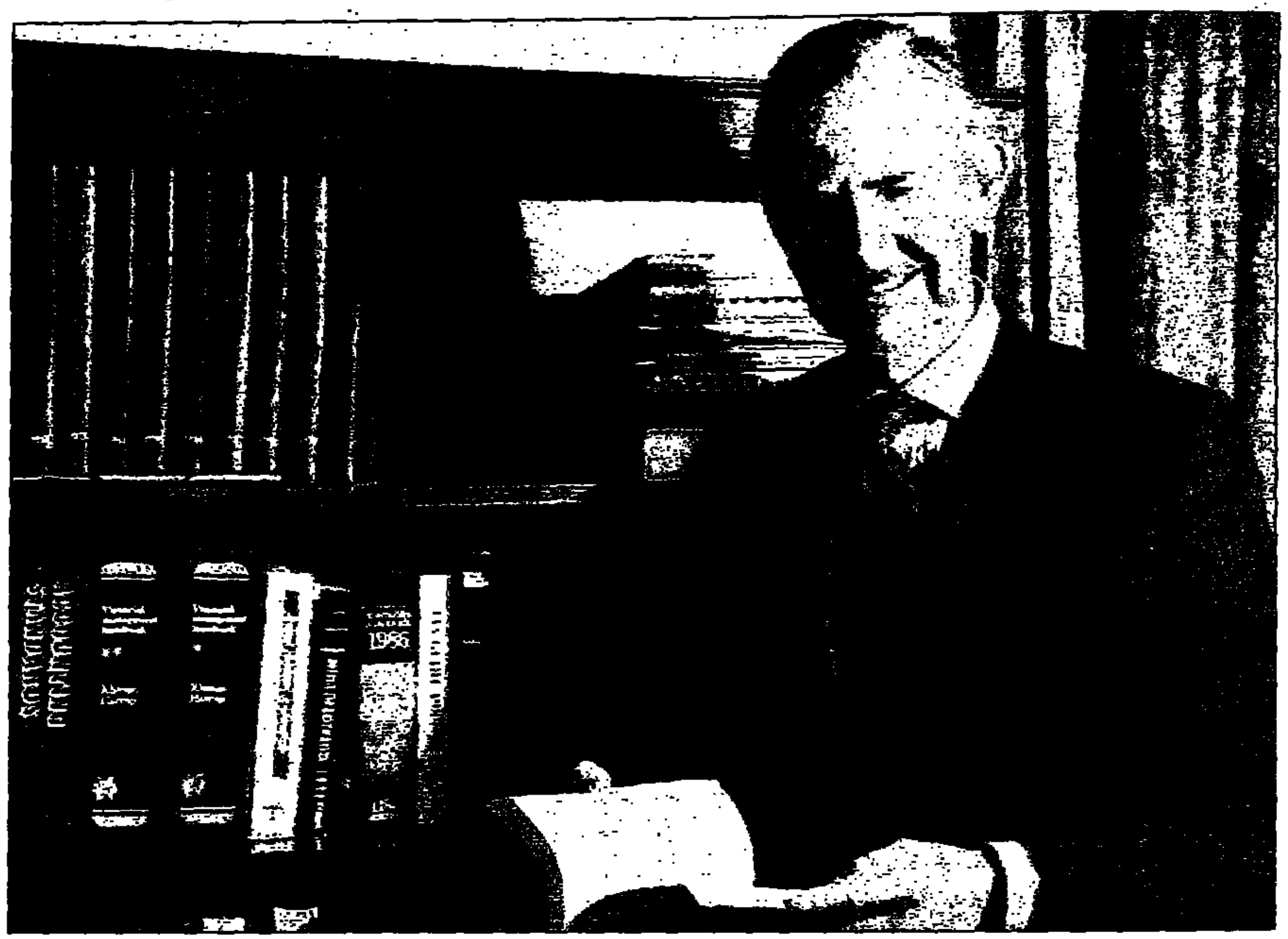
In spite of Professor Littlechild's views, the Government has already permitted vertical integration within the industry by way of last year's go-ahead for Scottish Power's £1.1 billion takeover bid for Manweb. When Mr Lang referred the PowerGen/National Power bids last November he declared: "The decisions to make a reference do not in any way prejudge the question of whether or not either merger might operate against the public interest." He added: "In general, I do not believe that vertical integration is inherently objectionable, whether in the electricity industry or elsewhere. However, in these two cases, the structural change proposed could have an effect on the development of competition."

Littlechild: opposition

Six Recs were acquired in a multi-billion pound takeover spree last year, originally sparked by Trafalgar House's abortive attempt to acquire Northern. Several US utility companies are understood to be waiting on Mr Lang's statement on the MMC's findings before launching further forays into the UK electricity sector.

Speculation has swirled around the remaining independents, particularly Yorkshire Electricity and London Electricity. The share prices of PowerGen and National Power have also attracted support. This partly reflects expectations that the MMC will bless the proposed bids, but also reflects the belief that even the UK's two principal generating companies may not prove bid proof.

At its current quote of 534p, PowerGen is capitalised at £3.8 billion, while National Power, at 467p, is valued at £5.3 billion. City analysts argue that several US utility companies possess the financial muscle to launch takeover bids for company. Scottish Power, capitalised at £3.2 billion and Scottish Hydro, capitalised at £1.2 billion, are perceived as vulnerable but less attractive than their UK counterparts.



Graeme Odgers, Monopolies and Mergers Commission chairman, who requested an extension of its deadline

BT and C&W work on blueprint

BY SARAH BAGNALL

FINANCIAL advisers to British Telecom and Cable and Wireless remain locked in negotiations in an attempt to reach agreement on terms of a proposed £35 billion merger.

Indications over the weekend were that the senior executives of BT and C&W will not hold meaningful discussions until a detailed blueprint has been prepared. Sources close to the talks rejected speculation that a deal would be concluded within three weeks.

BT, under pressure in the UK because of harsh pricing directives proposed by Oftel, has been pushing for a merger for several months. Secret talks started late last year after the ousting of Lord Young of Graffham and James Ross, respectively chairman and chief executive of C&W.

Initial talks between the management teams were called off, but late on Thursday C&W confirmed that discussions had been resumed.

C&W's statement came in the wake of a 34p rise in its share price to a new 1996 peak of 511½p, up 21½p on the week. BT's shares were run up 14½p to 348½p and ended 6p higher on the week. Current discussions are being conducted between C&W's advisers, Goldman Sachs and Baring Brothers, and BT's advisers, NM Rothschild.

Expectations are that the merger will be structured as a reverse takeover of BT and will include the payment of a special dividend of up to £6 billion to C&W shareholders. The deal could value C&W's shares at more than 550p.

A source close to the negotiations denied that C&W's board was set to ratify the deal at a board meeting this week.

A merger of the telecoms groups is expected to lead to significant job losses. A report in the latest *Price Waterhouse Corporate Register* highlights the fact that BT has axed 88,500 jobs in the five years to end of March 1995. The redundancies, the largest recorded in the report, have reduced BT's workforce to 148,900. BT has disclosed the need for another round of job cuts to combat competitive pressures from rival telecom companies and cable V operators.

Several issues remain to be resolved, including the disposal of Mercury, which is 80 per cent owned by C&W and is BT's major UK-based rival, and Mercury One-2-One, C&W's 50 per cent-owned cellular phone operator.

Rocky marriage?, page 38

Borrowing overshoot 'may stop tax cuts'

BY JANET BUSH
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE Chancellor may overshoot his public borrowing plans by £7 billion and £11 billion in the next two years, calling into question the advisability of tax cuts in November, the Ernst & Young ITEM Club says in a forecast today.

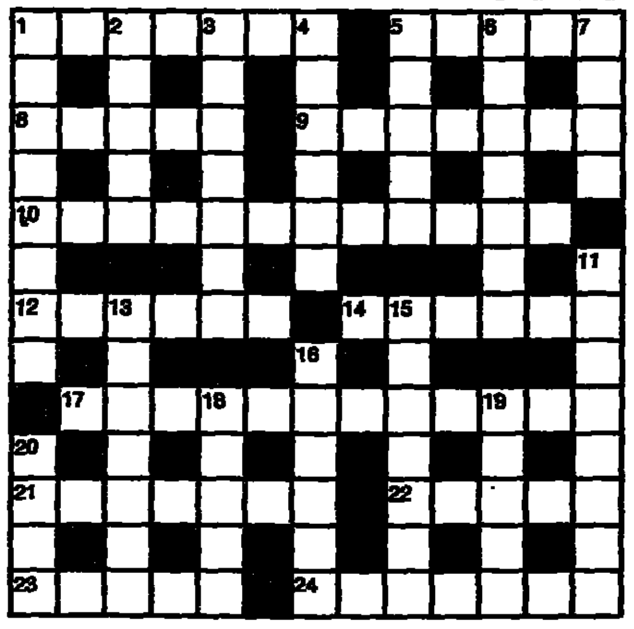
A combination of spending overshoots and lower than expected tax revenues lie behind the ITEM club's forecast of a Public Sector Borrowing Requirement of £29.5 billion in 1996-97, against the Chancellor's Budget forecast of £22.5 billion, and a 1997-98 PSBR of £26.7 billion, against the Budget projection of £15 billion.

The ITEM club is also looking for a PSBR for this tax year of £33.1 billion, well above the £29 billion forecast by the Government in November. "This will limit the magnitude of any tax cuts which could be announced for 1997 and seriously call into question the prudence of any more," the report says.

The ITEM club's gloomy predictions on public borrowing come in spite of its view that "it appears increasingly likely that by 1997 consumer spending could record its strongest growth since 1989".

Whereas last autumn, ITEM said that the risk appeared to be further economic weakness, it now suspects that the economy may rebound more strongly than expected by late this year. It is currently forecasting growth this year of 2.3 per cent, well below the Government's 3 per cent estimate, and of 3.1 per cent in 1997.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 744

ACROSS
1 Bird, beak with pouch (7)
5 Funny; magazine (5)
8 Go, put in (5)
9 Single cash payment (4,3)
10 Circular fair ride (5-2-5)
12 Missing portion (in MS) (6)
14 Solicitor (6)
17 *To the Dark Tower* he came (Browning) (6,6)
21 Refusing, hostile to, company (7)
22 Plumed military hat (5)
23 Pondered (5)
24 Say, Tuesday to Thursday (7)

DOWN
1 Introductory statement (8)
2 In a while (5)
3 Continue (5,2); fuss (5-2)
4 Wrestling hold; an admiral (6)
5 Small role; brooch (5)
6 Stonework (7)
7 Temporary accommodation (4)
11 City-wide traffic jam (8)
13 Colluders are in these (7)
15 Stimulated (7)
16 Loud, confused scene (6)
18 Scottish landowner (5)
19 With speed (5)
20 Tree; part of hand (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 743
ACROSS: 1 Acme 3 Ecliptic 8 Toughen 10 Value 11 Dreadnought 13 Fabian 15 Player 17 Redoubtable 20 Mince 21 Barrage 22 Trickery 23 Deny
DOWN: 1 Auto-da-fé 2 Mouse 4 Condor 5 Invigilator 6 Tolstoy 7 Crew 9 Hide-and-seek 12 Greenery 14 Burundi 16 Dunbar 18 Brace 19 Smut

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Bid-target BET vows to increase dividend 20%

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY AND ROBERT MILLER

BET, the business services group, yesterday unveiled plans for a 20 per cent rise in next year's dividend in a last-ditch attempt to fend off the £1.9 billion hostile takeover bid from the rival Rentokil.

Under takeover rules, BET has until Friday to release any new material information relating to its defence. Yesterday, BET forecast that its dividend will be at least 6.15p in the year to March 29, 1997, a 20 per cent rise from this year's 5.1p.

Sir Christopher Harding, chairman of BET, which this week will continue its final presentations to institutional shareholders emphasising the future strategy of the group's six key areas of business, dismissed Rentokil's bid as having no commercial logic.

Sir Christopher added: "BET has outperformed Rentokil over the past two years, confirming that BET does not need Rentokil. Rentokil needs BET and is trying to capture BET's future growth at the expense of our shareholders."

Clive Thompson, Rentokil chief executive, in response yesterday, said: "There is only one piece of new information in BET's announcement, and that is a lower than expected dividend increase. There is little credibility associated with dividend forecasts because this was the same BET board that twice halved its dividend, in 1992 and 1993." He said that dividends had to be paid from cash flow, and, at the interim stage last year, BET "had net debt of £114 million".

In response, a BET spokesman said: "The most recent research published by NatWest last week forecast a 5.6p dividend for next year and didn't even get to 6p until 1998." Dividend cuts of the early 1990s were a result of artificially high payouts as a legacy of the old BET, and debt at the half-way stage last year gave "a conservative gearing of just 30 per cent".

BET shares ended the week unchanged at 203p — just above the bid terms. Rentokil shares rose 4p, to 362p, valuing the cash-and-shares offer at 201.5p. Rentokil has until April 12 to bid more.

Sale time at Harvey Nichols

Harvey Nichols: flotation

BY MELVYN MARCKUS, CITY EDITOR

FURTHER details of the planned flotation of up to 49.9 per cent of Harvey Nichols, the Knightsbridge fashion store controlled by Dickson Concepts (International), based in Hong Kong, are expected this week.

Harvey Nichols, advised by Morgan Stanley, the investment banking house, and James Capel, stockbrokers, is expected to shortly publish a pathfinder prospectus on the placing which will focus on City institutions but may extend to investors in the US and continental Europe.

Dickson, led by the entrepreneur Dickson Poon, acquired Harvey Nichols from Burton Group for £53.7 million in 1991. An operating loss of some £150,000 in 1992-93 was turned into an operating profit of around £6.5 million for 1994-95 on turnover up from 1992-93's £54 million to some £75 million.

Analysts estimate that pretax profits of close on £6 million for 1994-95 will rise to £8.6 million for 1995-96, on turnover estimated at more than £85 million. A pre-tax outcome of £11.4 million is estimated for the year to end-March next, on sales of £103 million, rising to £14.6 million for 1997-98. Since the acquisition, Harvey Nichols has spent £17 million upgrading the store and creating the "Fifth Floor" restaurant.

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